

## ***Journal #4034      from sdc      11.24.17***

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Town of Sandbranch, Texas, has been without running water for 30 years***

### ***Today's Turkey***



**Nebraska regulators approved a route for the Keystone XL oil pipeline,** removing another major hurdle for the delayed project. Activists say they will continue to fight against the pipeline, which they fear could cause environmental damage and pollute critical water sources in the event of a spill. [Reuters](#)

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### **Pipeline opponents claim Enbridge skirted permit rules for storage yard**

Enbridge in a statement said the "permits were issued in compliance with applicable regulations at the time."

<http://strib.mn/2mJtOpm>

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### ***Today's Turkey***

***Do share this intellectually challenged individual with your world AND, of course, let him know what you think of his statement.***

**FCC Decision Could End Net Neutrality:** In yet another roll back of Obama-era rules, one that will affect every individual using the internet, FCC chairman Ajit Pai plans to [dismantle regulations that have been ensuring equal internet access, or 'net neutrality,'](#) including prohibiting high-speed internet service providers (ISPs) from stopping or slowing down the delivery of websites, and preventing companies from charging customers extra fees for high-quality streaming and other services. Internet companies, like Google and Amazon, warned that [rolling back the rules could make telecom companies, like AT&T and Verizon, powerful gatekeepers of information and entertainment.](#) Pai, counters that the rules limit consumer choice and amount to the federal government "micromanaging the internet." Pai has already eliminated numerous regulations, stripping down rules governing television broadcasters and telecom companies that were originally meant to protect public interest.

The FCC's decade-long struggle with how to regulate internet service led to extended legal battles as big ISPs fought against broadband regulations. The current rules, put in place in 2015 by FCC chairman, Tom Wheeler, resulted from the agency's decision to consider broadband a public utility. Wheeler's rules were upheld in 2016 by a Washington, DC federal appeals court. Pai's decision to repeal these rules will likely wind up in court as well.

## **Net Neutrality Repeal: What Could Happen and How It Could Affect You**

By STEVE LOHR

For you and me, the Federal Communications Commission's plan to repeal net neutrality rules can be boiled down to two questions: What might happen? And who do you trust?

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## **2 Police Arrested in Berta Caceres Murder Case in Honduras**

*teleSUR*

Excerpt: "Two policemen who allegedly tried to cover up and divert the investigation of the murder of Honduran environmental activist Berta Caceres have been arrested, the country's prosecutor's office has announced."

[READ MORE](#)

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## **Why These 8 States Could Soon Form the 'Great American Desert'**

*David Leestma, EcoWatch*

Leestma writes: "One of the world's largest underground bodies of fresh water - the Ogallala aquifer - is quickly shrinking, threatening the livelihoods of farmers in eight U.S. states." [READ MORE](#)

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**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe sues county over policing dispute**  
<http://strib.mn/2A9IWCl>



Mille Lacs County sues feds to get FOIA response  
And since November 2016, county officials have been waiting.  
<http://strib.mn/2yutJLP>

Calling it 'public safety crisis,' Gov. Dayton orders end to  
county-tribal dispute  
The 15-month dispute is over policing of the Mille Lacs Indian  
Reservation  
<http://strib.mn/2yvyIer>

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*I repeat; hold on to your rights; make sure your records are in order.....this is going to  
last several decades and get very ugly.*

### **Conservatives have a breathtaking plan for Trump to pack the courts**

By [Ronald A. Klain](#) November 21 at 7:36 PM

Conservatives have a new court-packing plan, and in the spirit of the holiday, it's a turducken of a scheme: a regulatory rollback hidden inside a civil rights reversal stuffed into a Trumpification of the courts. If conservatives get their way, President Trump will add twice as many lifetime members to the federal judiciary *in the next 12 months* (650) as Barack Obama named *in eight years* (325). American law will never be the same.

The “outer turkey” in the plan is the ongoing Trumpification of the courts. In the final two years of Obama’s presidency, Senate Republicans engaged in tenacious obstruction to leave as many judicial vacancies unfilled as possible. The Garland-to-Gorsuch Supreme Court switch is the most visible example of this tactic but far from the only one: Due to GOP obstruction, “the number of [judicial] vacancies . . . on the table when [Trump] was sworn in was unprecedented,” White House Counsel [Donald McGahn recently boasted](#) to the conservative Federalist Society.

Trump is wasting no time in filling the [103 judicial vacancies](#) he inherited. In the first nine months of Obama’s tenure, he nominated 20 judges to the federal trial and appellate courts; in Trump’s first nine months, he named 58. Senate Republicans are racing these nominees through confirmation; last week, breaking [a 100-year-old tradition](#), they [eliminated the “blue slip” rule](#) that allowed home-state senators to object to particularly problematic nominees. The rush to Trumpify the judiciary [includes](#) nominees rated unqualified by the American Bar Association, nominees with outrageously conservative views and nominees significantly younger (and, therefore, likely to serve longer) than those of previous presidents. As a result, by sometime next year, [1 in 8 cases](#) filed in federal court will be heard by a judge picked by Trump. Many of these judges will likely still be serving in 2050.

Day 3 of Gorsuch’s confirmation hearing, in 4 minutes

Judge Neil Gorsuch continued with his third day of Supreme Court nomination hearings on March 22, answering broad questions but refusing to state specifics. (Video: Jenny Starrs/

But even this plan — to fill approximately 150 judicial vacancies before the 2018 elections — is not enough for conservatives.

Enter the next element of the court-packing turducken: a new plan written by the crafty co-founder of the Federalist Society, Steven Calabresi. In a paper that deserves credit for its transparency (it features a section titled “Undoing President Barack Obama’s Judicial Legacy”), Calabresi [proposes](#) to pack the federal courts with a “minimum” of 260 — and possibly as many as 447 — newly created judicial positions. Under this plan, the 228-year-old federal judiciary would increase — in a single year — by 30 to 50 percent.

Never mind that Republicans saw no urgency in filling judicial vacancies while Obama was president. Never mind that they ignored pleas from conservative Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. to fill positions in courts facing “[judicial emergencies](#).” Now, conservatives want a 30 to 50 percent increase in the number of federal judgeships. And they have a clear idea of who should fill [this massive number of new posts](#): “President Trump and the Republican Senate will need to fill all of these new judgeships in 2018, before the next session of Congress.”

Almost overnight, the judicial branch would come to consist of almost equal parts judges picked by nine presidents combined — Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush 41, Clinton, Bush 43 and Obama — and judges picked by one: Donald J. Trump. The effect on our civil rights and liberties would be astounding. And a continuation of the pattern of Trump’s nominees to date — [more white and more male](#) than any president’s in nearly 30 years — would roll back decades of progress in judicial diversity.

But even that isn’t enough for the Turducken Court Packers. They have jammed one more “treat” inside this turkey.

Calabresi has also proposed that Congress abolish 158 administrative law judgeships in federal regulatory agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Food and Drug Administration, Federal Communications Commission, and Securities and Exchange Commission, and replace these impartial fact-finders with a new corps of 158 Trump-selected judges who — unlike current administrative law judges — would serve for life.

These new Trump administrative law judges would have vast power over environmental, health and safety, fair competition, communications, labor, financial and consumer regulation for decades. Unlike the existing administrative law judges, selected as nonpartisan members of the civil service, Calabresi’s replacement corps would all be picked in a single year, by a single man: Donald J. Trump.

And if this breathtaking transformation of our federal judicial system isn't jarring enough, Calabresi has one final treat: a proposal that Congress do all of this in the tax-cut bill that Congress is trying to pass before it leaves for the holidays.

Progressives need to mount a more cohesive and effective plan to slow down the Trump train of judicial transformation. Otherwise, we'll have a court-packing turducken for Thanksgiving, and a revolutionary rollback in rights and regulation for Christmas.

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**Navajo Math Circles – Special Bond Between Navajo Culture and Mathematics**

Originally airing in 2016, "Navajo Math Circles" follows Navajo students in a lively collaboration with mathematicians. Using a model called math circles, the students stay late after school and assemble over the summer at Diné College in Tsaile, Ariz., to study mathematics. The math circles approach emphasizes student-centered learning by putting children in charge of exploring mathematics to their own joy and satisfaction.

**Navajo Math Circles (trailer) from Zala Films on Vimeo.**

The documentary reveals the challenges in education on the Navajo Nation and looks at a new approach for improving the mathematical skills of students. The "Navajo Math Circles" project summons applications of math in Native culture to provide tools for increasing math literacy, and highlights the special connections between Navajo culture, natural beauty and mathematics. The film shows how math circles help raise the hopes of parents, students and teachers for a brighter future. [READ MORE](#)

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**Aleut Story** – In the turbulence of war, in a place where survival was just short of miraculous, the Aleuts of Alaska would redefine themselves and America. From indentured servitude and isolated internment camps, to Congress and the White House, this is the incredible story of the Aleut's decades-long struggle for our nation's ideals.

**Aleut Story Trailer** [READ MORE](#)

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**[To Stop Keystone XL, 8,000 People in Just 24 Hours Make "Promise to Protect"](#)**

**Jon Queally, Common Dreams:** It's been less than 48 hours since a panel in Nebraska gave final approval for the Keystone XL pipeline to be built in the state, but already more than 8,000 people have vowed to put their bodies on the line -- and in front of the construction path, if needed -- to make sure the construction never happens. [Read the Article](#)

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[www.hcn.org/articles/tribal-affairs-two-paiute-tribe-elders-navigate-a-failing-health-care-system?utm\\_source=wcnl&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.hcn.org/articles/tribal-affairs-two-paiute-tribe-elders-navigate-a-failing-health-care-system?utm_source=wcnl&utm_medium=email)

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**[Utah man sentenced to probation for role in Oregon protest](#)**

A man who tried to get Mormon church leaders to mediate an end to last year's occupation of a federal wildlife center in Oregon by armed militants was sentenced on Wednesday to two years on probation for his own brief role in the takeover.

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**Nebraska regulators have approved a new route for the Keystone XL pipeline. But will it ever be built?**

Los Angeles Times

The Nebraska Public Service Commission has authorized the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, but the decision — a new route with substantial [Read the full story](#)

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**Victory: Concerned Citizens and Environmental Groups Stop Oil Train in Its Tracks** [https://www.ecowatch.com/victory-crude-oil-transportation-2511622791.html?utm\\_source=EcoWatch+List&utm\\_campaign=193859ae06-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_49c7d43dc9-193859ae06-85895669](https://www.ecowatch.com/victory-crude-oil-transportation-2511622791.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=193859ae06-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-193859ae06-85895669)

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**Circle of Blue**

**[Congress Passes Defense Spending Bill That Includes Perfluorinated Chemicals Health Study.](#)** – CDC will guide first-ever national evaluation of drinking water contaminant.

**[U.S. Government Releases First Global Water Strategy.](#)** – Report identifies water priorities in foreign policy.

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**New Mexico Tribes Step Up to Protect Land Before Fossil Fuels Vote**

[https://www.ecowatch.com/new-mexico-tribes-fossil-fuels-2511659102.html?utm\\_source=EcoWatch+List&utm\\_campaign=193859ae06-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_49c7d43dc9-193859ae06-85895669](https://www.ecowatch.com/new-mexico-tribes-fossil-fuels-2511659102.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=193859ae06-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-193859ae06-85895669)

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**[The Horses on Standing Rock Get a Checkup](#) By VICTOR J. BLUE**

Traveling veterinarians, their patients and tradition.

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**[VIDEO: A Thanksgiving for the Turkeys](#)**

Step into the barnyard at the Celebration for the Turkeys. For three decades, Farm Sanctuary, a vegan animal rescue organization, has been hosting a turkey dinner where the birds are the guests of honor instead of the main course.

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The town of **Sandbranch, Texas**, which has been without running water for 30 years, struggles to maintain an adequate amount of bottled water donations. “We are a dirty little secret no one wants to talk about. I was listening to MSNBC talk about Flint, Michigan, the other day and what is happening there is unconscionable. But I thought, ‘Yeah, and what about us? What about us?’” –Detra Newhouse, a resident of Sandbranch, Texas, in reference to the city’s lack of running water. Bacteria has contaminated the impoverished town’s groundwater since the 1980s, and a combination of financing and development laws have perpetuated the problem. Residents are forced to rely on donations of bottled water. [The Guardian](#)