

Journal #4013 from sdc 8.2.18

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Trump State Dept. Attempts 'Shortcut' to Build KXL Pipeline, Groups Say



***Another
spectacular
Bucky
Harjo
photo***

Environmental Justice Advisory Council Public Meeting

The council that advises the EPA on matters of environmental justice will gather in Boston from August 14 to 16 for a public meeting.

On the agenda: environmental justice issues in the Boston area and a final report from a committee looking into water infrastructure financing.

Registration is open for the [in-person meeting](#) and the [teleconference](#).

Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig students walk the halls of a school they've waited generations to see

Until recently, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig was glaring proof of the federal government's neglect of its treaty obligation to tribal schools. Of the 183 schools in the Bureau of Indian Education system, few were in worse shape than the Bug school. <http://strib.mn/2v1OFQJ>

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Four years ago, Star Tribune editorial writer Jill Burcum learned about the unsuccessful, years-long effort to secure federal funding to rebuild the dilapidated Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota.

After visiting the reservation and doing additional reporting, Burcum realized that the neglected “Bug” school was a symptom of a much larger problem – the federal [Bureau of Indian Education](#) (BIE) system was broken, leaving thousands of Indian kids across the country in crumbling schools despite America’s treaty commitments.

Fortunately, Burcum’s [2014 editorial series](#) – and the powerful photos by the Star Tribune’s David Joles – got the attention of politicians and bureaucrats in Washington, and she was called to testify before Congress. The series was a 2015 [Pulitzer Prize finalist](#) for editorial writing.

That made [Monday’s dedication](#) of the newly rebuilt Bug school an especially important event for Burcum and her colleagues at Star Tribune Opinion – and one that reinforced the positive impact that passionate, well-researched opinion journalism can produce.

Burcum, who attended the dedication, wrote [today’s editorial](#) on the new school and took the opportunity to remind U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke that federal officials are still ignoring too many BIE schools.

“It is a disgrace that roughly 50 schools – about a third of total BIE schools – still are in need of replacement or serious overhaul,” Burcum wrote on behalf of the Editorial Board.

The K-12 BIE system serves about 48,000 American Indian students nationwide, and poverty and inadequate schools have contributed to some of the country’s worse disparities in academic achievement.

Thousands of children on the Leech Lake Reservation have a better chance to succeed now that they finally have a new high school. As Burcum's work has so effectively highlighted, all Native American kids in America deserve that same opportunity.

The best of this morning’s **Star Tribune Opinion** report follows:

[Editorial](#)

**[New Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school is complete, but Indian education system is crumbling](#)**

**By Editorial Board**

[Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke should ensure that all students have a safe, modern learning facility.](#)

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On Monday *Indian Country Today* launched the first in a weekly series of eight op-eds focused on the keys to success in (and the key strategic considerations for) tribal workforce development. The op-ed series is drawn from a new [tribal workforce development toolkit](#) produced by NCAI's Partnership for Tribal Governance (PTG).

To read this week's op-ed, titled "Tribal workforce development: success starts with governance," please click [here](#).

*In next week's op-ed: PTG explores two strategic considerations for tribal workforce development: strategic vision and integration.*

**NCAI Contact:** Ian Record, *Partnership for Tribal Governance Director*, [irecord@ncai.org](mailto:irecord@ncai.org)

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## Human Neurodiversity Should Be Celebrated for Its Strengths, Not Treated as a Disorder

NowThis Opinions July 23 at 8:00 AM ·

It's time that we stop thinking about conditions like ADHD and autism as 'disabilities' and recognize them as valuable pieces of humanity's neurodiversity

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## State water plan imperils Chicken Ranch tribe's plan to use land for agriculture

By Alex Maclean, Union Democrat, 7/27/18

Cattle graze on a small patch of green grass that's connected to more than 600 acres in Jamestown belonging to the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California.

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*We've all got both light and dark inside us. What matters is the part we choose to act on.*

*That's who we really are. -J.K. Rowling, author (b. 31 Jul 1965)*

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## Polar Bear Shot Dead After Attacking Cruise Ship Guard, Raising Questions of Arctic Tourism

Gabriela Saldivia, NPR

Saldivia writes: "On Saturday, the MS Bremen cruise ship landed on the island and polar bear guards went ashore to survey the land. Then a polar bear unexpectedly attacked one of the guards, a spokesperson for the ship operator Hapag-Lloyd Cruises told The Associated Press, and 'in an act of self defense' another guard shot the polar bear." [READ MORE](#)

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## Back to School Expo Scheduled this Weekend in Reno

The Washoe County School District has scheduled a free back-to-school expo from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 4 in center court at Meadowood Mall, 5000 Meadowood Mall Circle. Information about attendance requirements, meal applications, school [...] [Read more](#)

*Extracted from article in This is Reno:*

**Daniel Kirk**, currently serving as assistant principal at Cannan, will become principal at Natchez Elementary School

**ACE High School has two dual credit programs with TMCC** which includes the Advanced Machining and Manufacturing Technologies Program, and the Diesel Technologies Program. Each program allows the ACE High School Students to earn 30+ college credits plus high school credits over a three year program. The students can also earn additional college credits through the TMCC Middle College program where they can take additional courses such as Welding, HVAC, and Advanced Manufacturing.

“Currently, there is a huge demand for CNC (computer numerical control) operators, programmers and set-up technicians. According to the latest statistics, there approximately 400 openings for machining related jobs in the state of Nevada,” Santos said.

Salaries for the CNC machinist start in excess of \$20/hour with more critical work seeing even higher salaries and immediate opportunities in today’s changing, more technical manufacturing environment.

Stephen Habegger, owner of Centerline Machine Works, appreciates what he describes as an uptick in the local trades programs throughout the region, but emphasizes its a curriculum which requires skills such as science, math and critical thinking.

“You have to have an understanding what you working with. Its not just pound a nail 5,000 times a day,” Habegger said. “You have to understand how things go together, what its supposed to do and how it gets put together. You have to have a skill set that’s a little more far-reaching than just doing a job.”

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**delanceystreetcom:Today's selection -- from Villa and Zapata: A History of the Mexican Revolution by Frank McLynn.**

One of the core problems that led to the Mexican Revolution of 1910 was ownership of land. Villagers had owned and worked land communally for generations, but being unsophisticated, had not filed for titles. So the large land owners of the *haciendas* had taken much of that land away. It was the issue held highest by the revolutionary Emiliano Zapata:

"Above all else, ... was the issue of land; it was no accident that the great slogan of the Mexican Revolution (equivalent to 'liberty, equality and fraternity' in the French Revolution) was *Tierra y Libertad* -- land and liberty. The core problem of the Díaz years was the way the hacienda had encroached on village lands. Most villages had enjoyed their communal lands for centuries through customary right and had not filed documentary title to the territories in Mexico City. The *hacendados* and their lawyers took advantage of this to assert ownership in the village lands and water. By 1910 half of the rural population of Mexico had been reduced to dependency on the hacienda and many villages were hacienda pueblos. Even where the villages were not in hacienda territory, their inhabitants were often landless and had to work in the haciendas. The free non-hacienda villages were largely Indian and these were squeezed mercilessly until only a few retained their own ancient lands. Peaceful resistance was all but impossible, since the *hacendados* controlled the state courts and dominated local politics, making local democracy or free elections impossible.

"The villagers could in a sense count themselves lucky, for there was an even more exploited group of people: the peons who lived and worked permanently on the hacienda grounds, as opposed to the villagers who worked as day labourers. These peons were ground into the dirt by the nefarious system of debt peonage, common in the south, which made the states of Veracruz, Campeche, Chiapas and Yucatan the closest thing to the notorious serfdom of Russia and eastern Europe. The peon, indentured to the hacienda and unable to leave, toiling all day under the sun, at the mercy of brutal overseers and harsh discipline enforced by whips and riding crops, had perforce to buy all his needs at the company store, where debts were run up either honestly or dishonestly. When these debts were made heritable, so that children inherited their parents' debt, peonage became slavery in all but name. Echoing the cynical transactions in Gogol's *Dead Souls*, owners bought and sold each other's peons and used

bounty hunters to track down fugitives, who would then be beaten to death as a bloody warning to the others.



The cropped portion features the images of Emiliano Zapata (left with sombrero) Felipe Carrillo Puerto (center) and José Guadalupe Rodríguez (right with sombrero) behind banner featuring the Zapatista slogan, Tierra y Libertad (Land and Liberty).

"It is difficult to overstate the cynical savagery of debt peonage. Many peons owed up to three years' wages in debt which could never be repaid, especially as their employers cynically fiddled the figures. One company storekeeper was reputed to add the date at the top of the page to each peon's debt. The *hacendados* liked to keep their charges in ignorance, and on many haciendas schoolteachers were expressly forbidden to teach arithmetic to the permanent workers. Since Spaniards often held positions on the hacienda as keepers of the company store, clerks, foremen or managers, the *gachupines* were particularly hated, and Spain was always the main target for xenophobia in Mexico. The threat to all villagers was clear: if they lost their lands to the haciendas or became economically unviable, they would face starvation unless they became permanent employees on the haciendas and thus got sucked into the maw of debt peonage.

"Although the state of Morelos [where Emiliano Zapata lived] did not suffer from the worst excesses of the hacienda system farther south, the mind of Emiliano Zapata cannot be understood without appreciating the role of land in his mentality: both his mystical feeling for the soil of his ancestors, and his negative appreciation of what lay in store for the villagers of his state if they did not resist the big *hacendados*."

### **Villa and Zapata: A History of the Mexican Revolution**

Author: Frank McLynn      Publisher: Basic Books      Copyright 2000 by Frank McLynn  
Pages: 35-36

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### **Changing Woman Initiative Brings Traditional Knowledge Back To Mothers**

Posted By [Corinne Oestreich](#) July 25th, 2018 Blog

Nicole Gonzales is a Diné midwife who is also the founder of Changing Woman Initiative. Her work is empowering indigenous mothers across the US and Canada, as well as meeting with Indigenous midwives to talk about the importance of sovereignty in women's care. Click the link below to learn more about her Foundation!

“Changing Woman Initiative's mission is to renew cultural birth knowledge to empower and reclaim Indigenous sovereignty of women's medicine through women's stories and life ways.”

<https://www.facebook.com/thechangingwomaninitiative/> [Read More](#)

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**Native Gymnast Ashton Locklear Comes Forward As A Survivor in Powerful Instagram Post**      Posted By [Corinne Oestreich](#) July 26th, 2018 Blog

Most are familiar with the trial of Dr. Larry Nassar and his abuse of women and girls in the US Olympic gymnast team etc, but even now women are still finding the strength to come forward and voice their stories of survival.

On her Instagram page, Olympic Gymnast [Ashton Locklear](#) used her public platform to join the ranks of survivors from Nassar's ugliness. See her incredibly brave post below..

We support you [Ashton Locklear!](#) [Check out our interview with Ashton.](#) [Read More](#)

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**Email dump confirms shrinking nat'l monuments was designed to favor logging, fossil-fuel interests**

Incompetence has given environmentalists and other public lands advocates confirmation that the Interior Department's review of national monuments carried out last year was no balanced affair but a move intent on advancing the interests of loggers and drillers. As reported by *The Washington Post* on Monday and Tuesday, the incompetence came in the form of a release of unedited email documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

Dino Grandoni [reported](#) that these “show more candid conversations than ordinary FOIA releases because the Interior Department sent out the unredacted correspondence by accident.” Officials there removed the email documents from the Interior website and urged anyone who had downloaded them to hit delete.

What the correspondence shows is that Interior officials were focusing their attention on what could be extracted from public lands if these lost their designation as national monuments or were shrunken: timber, fish, minerals and fossil fuels. What was circumstantial before is now clear. It's as if these industries were clients instead of constituents.

As ordered by President Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke undertook a review of 27 national monuments in the spring of 2017 with an eye toward eliminating some and lopping off hunks of others. Last August, when the [review](#) was completed with the recommendation that the acreage of some national monuments be greatly diminished, the response of foes was immediate:



“Zinke’s sham review was rigged from the beginning to open up more public lands to fossil fuel, mining and timber industries,” [said](#) Randi Spivak, public lands director at the Center for Biological Diversity,

Democrats also blasted the report. Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona [noted](#), for instance, "The review has been secretive. It has been opaque and it has been contrived. I say it’s contrived because the conclusion was already written."

Now we know that wasn’t hyperbole.

Zinke was supposed to be supervising an objective study of 27 national monuments. He and his minions were actually burying the benefits of keeping the national monuments the size they had been designated and emphasizing how shrinking the monuments would be good for the extractive industries. That wasn’t some new agenda from Zinke. Opening up more highly protected public lands to exploitation (and keeping less protected land from obtaining better protection) have been right-wing goals for decades.

The FOIA documents are rife with examples of the reviewers’ intent. For instance, The [Post's Juliet Eilperin reported](#) Monday that the acting assistant secretary of lands and minerals management asked last July what would happen if Trump decided to reverse President Barack Obama's expansion of Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Bureau of Land Management acting deputy director John Ruhs wrote that this would be a blessing for logging companies. “Previous timber sale planning and development in the [expansion area] can be immediately resumed.”

Ultimately, Trump cut the acreage of two of the national monuments, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. But before that shrinking can actually take place, the courts will have the



final say, and environmental advocates who have sued in the matter are convinced that law and court precedent are in their favor and that the monument reductions will be reversed.

Add Interior's mistaken document dump to the existing evidence—okaying the Dakota Access Pipeline, ending the public land coal leasing moratorium, Zinke's packed schedule of [meetings with](#) fossil fuel executives, killing the Clean Power Plan, letting cars emit more greenhouse gas emissions—and it can be seen that giving full rein to the extraction industries is a huge priority for the Trump regime. But as shown by the retraction of their unredacted emails, Interior officials show that even they can blush a little bit when their intentions are publicly exposed.

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Last year, President Trump slashed the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in half. The legal boundaries of the monument may have shrunk, but the entire area remains home to breathtaking landscapes and endangered wildlife .

The difference is: now mining companies can stake claims to develop this precious land. **Canadian mining firm Glacier Lake Resources plans to begin a copper mining project in the former Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument this summer.** <sup>1</sup>

[Grand Staircase-Escalante is one of the nation's most special places, and it deserves to stay pristine. Say no to harmful copper, nickel and cobalt mining.](#)

**Copper is mined in massive open pits, which would forever scar Grand Staircase-Escalante's amazing landscape.** Copper mining leads to pollution that damages rivers and streams and impacts sensitive wildlife . <sup>2</sup>

Bald eagles and endangered California condors soar over the spires of Grand Staircase-Escalante. The Southwestern willow flycatcher, another of Grand Staircase's endangered birds, is particularly vulnerable to disruption of the streamside habitat where it makes its nests. Copper extraction could destroy the habitat that these animals depend on to survive. <sup>3,4</sup>

Mining also poses a threat to priceless fossil deposits . Paleontologists have discovered fossils from 37 previously unknown species in the Grand Staircase-Escalante area. **Mining has no place on land that is so rich in nature and natural history -- land that by all rights should still enjoy legal protection.** <sup>5</sup>

[Mining companies' short-sighted search for profit could permanently change this incredible place unless we take action now.](#)

Public lands belong to all of us. Erasing Grand Staircase's protections opened the door to destructive mining and drilling -- and starting now, mining companies are stepping through that door.

The Grand Staircase-Escalante area's beauty and its wilderness are treasures that have been enjoyed by generations of Americans. **This irreplaceable landscape is worth so much more than the minerals that could be torn from its mountainsides.**

[We need to tell President Trump and Secretary Zinke that Grand Staircase-Escalante is too precious to mine.](#)

Thank you for all you do,           The Environmental Action team

1. Shannon Van Sant, " [Firm Prepares To Mine Land Previously Protected As A National Monument](#) ," NPR, June 21, 2018.
2. " [TENORM: Copper Mining and Production Wastes](#) ," United States Environmental Protection Agency, April 12, 2018.
3. Sonya Daw, " [Southwestern Willow Flycatcher](#) ," National Park Service, 2013.
4. F. Clair Jensen, Harry Barber and Steve Hedges, " [Field Checklist Of The Birds Of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument](#) ," Bureau of Land Management, accessed July 6, 2018.
5. David Polly, " [Grand Staircase, Home to Countless Dinosaur Fossils, Could Be Destroyed by Mining](#) ," Live Science, November 30, 2017.

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**Trump State Dept. Attempts 'Shortcut' to Build KXL Pipeline, Groups Say**  
[350.org's](#) No KeyStone XL Washington, DC march. / *Flickr* / CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Environmentalists spoke out against President [Donald Trump's](#) State Department after it found "no significant environmental impacts" in its review of TransCanada's long-gestating [Keystone XL \(KXL\)](#) pipeline.

The alternative route [approved by Nebraska regulators](#) in November would have "minor to moderate" impacts from its construction and operation, according to the 300-page [draft report](#) released Monday. It said the route would not have a major impact on the state's water resources, soils or wildlife. It may cause minor impacts on cultural resources such as Native American graves.

Once built, the \$8 billion 1,180-mile [pipeline](#) will transport heavy crude from Alberta's [tar sands](#) to U.S. Gulf Coast refineries. The controversial project has been at the center of an environmental fight for a decade. President Obama [rejected](#) the KXL in 2015 partly due to concerns about its contribution to [climate change](#), but President Trump [reversed the decision](#) just days into office.

In a [press release](#), the [Sierra Club](#) said that Trump's approval of the KXL was based on an outdated Environmental Impact Statement from 2014 and accused the administration of short-cutting the permitting process.

"Once again, the Trump administration is attempting to take a shortcut around the legally required review process on Keystone XL, putting our communities at risk for the sake of propping up the Canadian tar sands industry," said Sierra Club Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign Director Kelly Martin in a statement. "Keystone XL was a bad idea when it was proposed a decade ago, it was a bad idea when former President Obama rejected it, and it's an even worse idea now. This pipeline is a threat to our land, water, wildlife, communities, and climate, and we will continue fighting, in the courts and in the streets, to ensure that it is never built."

The group noted that in November, Nebraska regulators rejected TransCanada's preferred route for the pipeline. Instead, they voted for a new route that had not been assessed.

KXL opponents are now trying to block the State Department's approval of the pipeline "based on this insufficient analysis" in federal court, the Sierra Club said.

The press release added: "Rather than following the legally required process of preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement before approving a project, the State Department is attempting to rush the project through by releasing an abbreviated Environmental Assessment on the new Nebraska route while leaving its permit in place, and still failing to conduct an adequate review of the project's climate impacts, harm to endangered species, or changes in oil prices and market forces since 2014."

Under a 2011 state law, Nebraska is not allowed to factor in pipeline safety or spill risks. Nebraska regulators did not factor in a [210,000-gallon spill](#) from TransCanada's existing [Keystone Pipeline](#) on South Dakota farmland that happened just days before they voted on the KXL's alternative route.

TransCanada hopes to start KXL construction in the beginning of 2019.

"We will review the environmental assessment and provide comment to the Department of State as necessary," Matthew John, a TransCanada spokesman, told [Bloomberg](#).

The State Department has opened its draft report of the Keystone XL Mainline Alternative Route for a 30-day public comment period.

Other environmentalists blasted the State Department's assessment.

"The Trump administration can't patch over its total failure to comply with the law by releasing this environmental assessment now, after Keystone XL has already been approved," said Jackie Prange, senior attorney with the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#) in a statement. "The dirty tar sands carried by this pipeline would have disastrous effects on our climate, land, and water. This project should have been rejected at the outset, and the administration should revoke the permit immediately."

Jane Kleeb, founder of [Bold Nebraska](#), has similar sentiments.

"The Trump administration doesn't care about water or property rights," Kleeb stated. "Landowners, Tribal Nations and everyday citizens will continue to fight the Trump administration's illegal rubber-stamp of a permit for Keystone XL, and this illegal review that completely violated due process of affected landowners on the Mainline Alternative Route. The only right thing to do, would be to reject Keystone XL again."