A coalition of national organizations representing and advocating for Native Americans made history in Sioux City, Iowa, on August 19 and 20 with the first-ever presidential election forum focused entirely on the concerns of Native Americans, and FNX played a role in by acquiring footage of the two-day event held at the Orpheum Theatre. FNX Producer/Director Frank Blanquet, was there to capture video footage from this historical event. The Forum was named in honor of a Native American rights activist from the Sioux City area, who died in June.

All 26 Democratic and Republican presidential candidates were invited to participate in the forum as were President Trump and Republican challenger William Weld. Eleven candidates participated in the forum including Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders, best-selling author Marianne Williamson, former United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro, former United States Representative John Delaney, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Amy Klobuchar, and former United States Representative Joe Sestack, and Independent Candidate Mark Charles, a member of the Navajo Nation. Three candidates participated via Skype including Montana Governor Steve Bullock, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and Senator Kamala Harris.

Over the course of the two-days candidates were asked questions from panelists selected by tribal officials, tribal members and Native American youth. The panels were moderated by Mark Trahant, Editor of Indian Country Today, based in Washington DC. Trahant is a member of the Shshhone-Bannock Tribe.

Native-led Four Directions is a non-profit Native voter engagement organization focusing on the nation’s First Americans. According to O.J. Semans, co-executive director of Four Directions and organizer of the forum, candidates understand that voter turnout is increasing dramatically in Indian Country, “In a contested primary and a general election that’s likely to be close, there are several states where Native American voters can provide a winning margin.”

He added it’s a matter of fairness to expect candidates for President to be familiar with issues facing Indian Country. Four Directions, the media and other Native rights organizations are paying close attention this year to candidate positions, and Semans said Native American voters will be better informed than ever when it comes time to vote.

During Blanquet’s two days at the event footage of the days’ activities was captured, including interviews with presidential candidates and event organizers. He also produced and posted social media alerts. FNX was given access to exclusive videos shot by Indian Country Today including interviews with Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, whose schedule did not permit media interviews. An FNX NOW news segment with a summary of events will be released in late August.
Some of the stories covered by reporter Benjamin Purper in the past 30 days.

Menifee Builds Its Own Police Force - The city of Menifee is building its own police force instead of contracting with the Riverside Sheriff's Department. We spoke with the Menifee Police Chief and City Manager.

Loma Linda Doctor On Epilepsy - With the recent passing of Disney celebrity Cameron Boyce, we did a story that focused on the dangers of epilepsy. Dr. Travis Losey, Loma (LLUH) shared how to detect and treat epilepsy.

Protesters Disrupt Press Conference by Natural Gas Advocates - A press conference was held by Natural Gas Advocates but was disrupted by environmental protesters. We grabbed soundbites from protesters and advocates.

Loma Linda Doctor Urges Full Vaccination As School Year Begins - This feature examined vaccinations and the risks that not getting vaccinated pose to public and individual health. The physician we spoke with urged full vaccinations.

UCR Studying Previously Unknown Fault Underneath Ridgecrest - Dr. Abhijit Ghosh, the scientist behind the project is studying the fault underneath Ridgecrest that caused two major earthquakes there.

Deadly Murrieta Gas Explosion - Southern California Gas Co. worker was killed in an explosion and fire that destroyed a house.

10 CA Counties Sanctioned for Lack of Mental Health Services - San Bernardino County is losing $4 million a month for not providing enough counselors and psychiatrists.

60 Swarm - Weekend closures of the eastbound 60 freeway are in effect until September 23 to facilitate resurfacing projects.

Restrictions for Combustibles in National Forest - San Bernardino National Forest visitors are barred from lighting campfires and using stoves outside of designated areas due to the increased risk of wildfires.

Riverside Traffic Stop Shootout - A man whose truck was being impounded just off the 215 freeway in Riverside suddenly opened fire, killing CHP officer Andrew Moye, Jr. and wounding two others before he was killed.

Warehouse Effect on Air Pollution and Health - Residents of a San Bernardino neighborhood blame pollution brought on by booming online retail economy for disease and birth defects in the area.

New Housing - An estimated 120,000 new housing units in line with state’s gradual housing recovery.

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Jesse Colin Young of The Youngbloods is best known for the song, “Get Together.” As with most of Young’s writing, the songs combine the personal and the political. | Jim Yester of The Association Windy, Cherish, Never My Love, Along Comes Mary - these and more put The Association on numerous charts. | Jerry Burgan of We Five - most well known for their re-invention of Ian and Sylvia’s “You Were On My Mind.” They also gave us wonderful interpretations of Vince Guaraldi’s “Cast Your Fate To the Wind,” George Harrison’s “Here Comes the Sun.” | Donovan Tea of The Lettermen - We’ll hear about the beginning of the group, where they are today, and many things in between. | Adrianna Marie, jazz and blues bassist and vocalist Adrianna Marie set to perform at the Blue Jay Jazz Festival.

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Local TV Production In Progress

TV PRODUCTION JOB ON DECK
Currently in development is a 10 video series for Strong Workforce Program -- Norco College. Empire KVCR has been commissioned to produce a series for a READY Campaign. This campaign presents an exciting montage of exploring, uncovering and excelling within all the various career paths currently offered within the California Community College system. Fields of Study include: Architecture & Construction; Agriculture; Food & Natural Resources; Business, Finance & Administration; Education; Government & Public Administration; Health Science, Medical & Nursing; Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security; Computer Science; Technology; Engineering & Mathematics; Workforce training - Health Care, Truckers, Police, Firefighters, Nursing, EMT; Green Tech Industries - Energy efficiency, Wind, Solar, Bio-fuel. The goal of the project is to create a series of videos that broadly publicizes industry-informed career pathways that prepare students for jobs needed within our regional labor market. All with an emphasis and focus on diversity and careers open to local area residents.

State of the Empire PBS
State of the Empire is our locally produced news program that explores happenings in the Inland Empire.
Joshua trees have inhabited the Southern California deserts for millions of years, and individual trees can live up to 300 years. Now, a new report from the University of California, Riverside claims the famous trees could lose virtually all of their habitat to climate change by the end of the century. KVCR’s Benjamin Purper and Empire KVCR TV took a trip to the desert to learn more.

Programs In September

Silent Witness – Emilia Fox stars as Doctor Nikki Alexander in the award-winning crime drama series. After the death of Professor Leo Dalton, new Lyell Centre boss Thomas Chamberlain struggles to impress the team. Nikki and Jack investigate the violent murder of a young woman found in a remote Scottish forest. Mondays at 7:00pm

Uncovered in the Archives – Host Brad Pomerance travels to various institutions throughout the Inland Empire to unravel some of the region’s most extraordinary historical events - known and unknown, remembered and forgotten - all told through the hidden treasures that we uncover in the archives. Sundays, beginning September 22 at 8:00pm

Reconnecting Roots – Self-described as "Ken Burns meets This American Life meets Bill Nye the Science Guy," this series is a quirky, youthful half-hour cultural series that seeks to bridge generations and bring viewers together. Hosted by Gabriel McCauley, Sundays beginning September 22 at 9:30pm

POV: Bisbee ‘17 – Combining documentary and scripted elements, this film follows several members of the close-knit community in Bisbee, Arizona as they commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Bisbee Deportation, when 1,200 immigrant miners were violently taken from their homes, shipped to the desert on cattle cars and left to die. September 19 at 9:00pm

Remains of the Day – Nominated for eight academy awards, Sir Anthony Hopkins stars as a butler who sacrificed his body and soul to service in the years leading up to World War II. September 25 at 8:00pm

Her Voice Carries – This program shares the stories of five quietly heroic women, told through their own words and the street art of international mural artist Sarah Rutherford. September 26 at 8:00pm
New Graphics Promoting Empire KVCR

The graphics department created a simple retro-style 5 X 9" bumper sticker for promotion use of our TV and Radio stations. We may use this design as a template for further promotional items in the future.

WORLD HELICOPTER DAY. We applaud our LACoFD Air Operations team, along with our partnering agencies, who work together and go above and beyond to protect our residents and communities. Pictured in this photo are helicopters from @lacofireairops @lasdhq @afdaireops Photo credit: anthony_pecchi

NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS DAY - Honor and Respect for Our Elders “The eagle feather has two sides. If the feather had only one side then Eagle could not fly. On one side we find mind/intellect, body/movement and spirit/emotion. Once these are balanced a person is balanced. On the other side there is institution/education, process, and ceremony. Once these are balanced then a person’s life is balanced. When the two sides of the feather are balanced then we have proper behavior.”

by: Michael Thrasher, Elder

PRSA Media Breakfast

On August 21, KVCR attended Public Relations Society of America Inland Empire’s “Meet the Media Breakfast” at Auto Club Speedway. Dozens of PR professionals attended the event which was held just outside of the grandstands, making pit stops with KVCR staff to share ideas for stories and collaboration. PR representatives from Cucamonga Valley Water District, Ontario Reign, Juris Productions, and more were in attendance at this networking event.

TV Host & KVCR Offers Free Cookbook

Chris Kimball is the author and host of Milk Street. Milk Street can be seen each Friday afternoon at 1:30pm. His show aims to change the way you cook by traveling the world for unique recipe ideas and cooking techniques. KVCR is offering copies of Chris Kimball’s newest book The Complete Milk Street TV Show Cookbook in two fun ways.

1. Viewers can win a copy of his cookbook by submitting a unique recipe. Five recipes will be selected as winners. The deadline for submissions is September 30.
2. Chris is returning as a guest on our local radio show, Lifestyles with Lillian Vasquez and this time, Lillian wants to know what questions listeners would ask Chris. Submit your question and if Lillian uses your question in her interview we’ll send you a copy of the cookbook. Five winners will receive a copy of the cookbook.

Submit your recipe and or questions at kvcr.org/milk.

The new season of Milk Street premieres Friday, October 18 at 1:30pm
COMING IN SEPTEMBER

TeePee Time – An animated preschool series about a curious little tipi discovering the world one new adventure at a time. For Teepee every step is a first step, every new experience is a learning one, and there is always lots of fun and adventure along the way! September 1 at 7:00am

Amy’s Mythic Mornings – Fun and innovative animated series for kids 6 to 9 that teaches problem solving by using traditional knowledge from Aboriginal story telling. Six-year-old Amy and her friends Theodore and Casey bring the lessons to life when they imagine themselves in the rich stories told by Amy’s Granny Louie. And the adventures begin! September 1 at 9:00 am

Mangoré: For the Love of Art – Legendary guitarist and poet, Agustin Barrios (1885-1944) is magnificently portrayed by Damián Alcázar in this powerful biopic. From humble poverty-stricken indigenous Paraguayan Gurani roots, young Barrios shows incredible talent and passion for music and literature. September 6 at 9:00pm

Potlatch Keepers – A journey of self-discovery and cultural awakening documented by Aboriginal filmmaker Lindsey Mae Willie. When the elders in her ancestral community ask their youth to return home to learn and preserve their fading cultural keystone, the Potlatch, Lindsay and her two cousins heed the call. September 8 at 5:00pm

Kaha: Wi – The Cycle of Life – An immersive traditional story woven into a stunning visual feast. Indigenous Dancer /Choreographer Santiee Smith tells the story of her intimate and powerful new work against a dazzling cinematic performance featuring her and her dance company. September 15 at 5:00pm

Sasquatch’n – A groundbreaking investigative documentary that dives deep inside secret Native societies to uncover knowledge about the Sasquatch never revealed before. The Sasquatch has been a part of Native culture since the existence of the first peoples, and tribes across North America have told stories of the creature for centuries through pictographs, artwork and legends. September 29 at 5:00pm

IN PRODUCTION

FNX NOW - FNX worked with “RNZ” (Radio New Zealand) to build a couple of FNX NOW news segments regarding the fight to protect sacred Maori Lands in Auckland, New Zealand, known as Ihumatao, from developers. The story was also published on the FNX News webpage.

NATIVE SHORTS RETURNS - The Native Shorts series premiered August 8, 2019 and has launched a new episode every Thursday at 8pm.

CREATION STORY - Production on the FNX Creation Story started in August. The team shot interviews with Jacob Coin and Ken Shoji, who both worked on the People of the Pines series and were involved with the planning of the FNX channel. A working timeline will match the previously created story outline and additional scheduled interviews will be included as they are captured.

GRAPHICS

Production continues for Minnie’s War Bonnet. Adding value has been completed and colorizing the animation is well on its way to completion. Currently the black and white version is being edited for audio with our client’s audio engineers. Color will continue in the meantime and finalization of the video edit will follow after picture lock.