

Journal #6131 from sdc 12.9.25

A ranch-gate guardian straight out of the Wild West,

Why one tribe has declared the Colorado River a legal person

NCAI and NARF water sovereignty Webinar Happening on Tues

NCAI Calls for Immdiate Meaningful Tribal Consultation re Transfer of Native Education Programs

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Bianca's Story

One of the Nation's Largest Urban Native American Communities is Driving a Cultural Revolution

Indian Casino

A planned copper mine threatens a sacred Apache tradition

Here are 9 'hard truths' parents need to hear: It will 'help you raise happier, healthier kids

New Details On \$1K 'Trump Accounts' For CA Babies

Submitting an Award-Winning NSBW Nomination



📸 A ranch-gate guardian straight out of the Wild West, perched off Ax Handle Rd amid the breathtaking high-desert expanse of Palomino Valley, NV. Keep it wild! —Fauna T. ❤️

[Why one tribe has declared the Colorado River a legal person](#)

LAT, IAN JAMES: "As I've followed the long-running negotiations over the Colorado River the last couple of years, very little progress has been made in transforming the century-old system of managing the river's dwindling water. The Colorado's giant reservoirs have dropped because of heavy water use and a quarter-century of drought, worsened by climate change, yet seven Western states have remained deadlocked on how to take less water and live within the river's limits.

In the last month, though, leaders of a tribal nation on the California-Arizona border offered a concept that might help transform the discussions — or at least ensure that the health of the river itself isn't completely ignored."

[Read the Full Statement Here](#)

NCAI and NARF Water Sovereignty Webinar Happening on Tuesday!

Join NCAI and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) this coming **Tuesday, December 9, at 3:00 p.m. ET** for a crucial webinar: "Protecting Tribal Waters and Sovereignty: Navigating the New WOTUS Proposed Rule."

The EPA and Army Corps of Engineers are proposing to substantially reduce the scope of water bodies protected under the Clean Water Act. The impact on Tribal Nations will be immediate and, in some cases, potentially severe. Join the NCAI and NARF for a critical discussion on the proposed regulatory revisions to the "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) definition. The resulting definition threatens to strip federal protection from streams and wetlands vital to Tribal reserved rights including hunting, fishing, and gathering by eliminating key jurisdictional standards.

This webinar will provide Tribal leaders, legal counsel, and environmental staff with an analysis and commentary of the proposed rule, which attempts to codify the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling in *Sackett v. EPA*, and also answer questions about the proposed rule and offer ideas about how Tribal Nations can participate in the comment process and monitor the proposal moving forward.

[Register Now](#)

NCAI Calls for Immediate Meaningful Tribal Consultation Prior to Transfer of Native Education Programs

NCAI strongly requests the Department of Education (ED) immediately hold meaningful Tribal consultation on its transfer of the administration of programs across Elementary and Secondary Education as well as Postsecondary Education to agencies outside of ED. This decision by ED, done without input from Tribes, weighs heavily on the future of our next generation, as NCAI underscored in our March 2025 statement on proposed transfers of Tribal-serving education programs.

[Read the Full Statement Here](#)

Save the Date for the Native Youth Leadership Summit: February 9-12, 2026

The NCAI Youth Commission will host the Native Youth Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., on February 9–12, 2026. Open to Native youth ages 14–24, the Summit offers an immersive, hands-on leadership and advocacy training experience.

The program includes the State of Indian Nations address, advocacy skills training, applied practice sessions, and culminates in youth-led visits to congressional offices on Capitol Hill on February 12. Hill Visits are the central purpose of this year’s Summit, giving participants a direct opportunity to meet with their members of Congress.

Sign-ups will open soon. Youth planning to participate in Hill Visits must register by January 23. Tribal youth groups are welcome.

NCAI Contact: [Alison Black](#), Youth Leadership & Training Coordinator

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Life hacks

Making these simple changes in your 30s will improve your health in your 70s.

[Humanity](#) [Posted by](#) [Nov 28](#)

[Parker County, Texas, October 1866. Ten-year-old Bianca Babb was helping her mother inside their frontier cabin when she heard the horses—dozens of them, fast, too fast for anything good.](#)

Before anyone could react, Nokoni Comanche warriors surrounded the cabin. The violence that followed was too brutal for detail: her mother was killed, the cabin destroyed, and when the chaos ended, three children were taken—Bianca, her younger brother John (“Dot”), and a visiting neighbor child. They were tied to horses and driven north into Comanche territory.

Bianca’s childhood ended in that moment. Her survival had only just begun.

The First Days

For days, the children were forced across the plains without rest or mercy.

They ate raw meat so no fire would reveal their location. They drank from muddy streams. They slept on bare ground, shaking with grief and exhaustion.

Bianca struggled most. She couldn’t ride well, couldn’t keep up, cried constantly. Some accounts say the Comanches mockingly called her “stinks when walks,” a cruel label for a terrified child trying to stay alive.

Soon, the captives were divided—claimed by different families as slaves or possible adoptees. Bianca was separated from Dot, the last remaining thread to her old life. Suddenly she was alone among people whose language she didn’t know, whose customs she didn’t understand, and who had killed her mother only hours before.

Most adults wouldn’t survive such trauma. Bianca was ten.

Tekwashana’s Daughter

Bianca was claimed by a Comanche woman named Tekwashana. What unfolded wasn’t kindness at first, but something more complicated—practicality blended with a gradual, reluctant acceptance.

Tekwashana needed help. Bianca needed someone who could teach her how to live in this new world.

So Tekwashana taught her.

How to gather firewood and haul water. How to prepare food. How to swim rivers—something most frontier white children never learned. How to pack up a camp in minutes when the tribe needed to move.

She pierced Bianca’s ears, darkened her blond hair with pigment so she wouldn’t stand out, dressed her in Comanche clothing. Slowly, without realizing it, Bianca adapted. Not because she wanted to. Not because she forgave. But because survival demanded it.

She learned Comanche words. Then phrases. Then the language. She absorbed the rhythms of camp life—when to work, when to rest, how to behave. She watched buffalo hunts return, saw women process meat with astonishing skill, lived the constant mobility of the Plains: camps rising and vanishing in hours.

The Invisible Border

Somewhere in those seven months, Bianca crossed a border she couldn't name.

She remained Bianca Babb—white captive, grieving daughter—but she also became a child living inside Comanche society, understanding it from within rather than from afar.

This wasn't romance or fantasy. It was trauma forcing adaptation. Yet years later, she would write about Comanche life with nuance: acknowledging brutality, yes, but also community, skill, and humanity. Bianca became one of the very few white captives who documented Plains life from true immersion.

The Ransom

After about seven months, word reached her father: the children were alive and could be ransomed. John Babb scraped together whatever he could—money, goods, horses—to bring them home.

In spring 1867, Bianca was released.

The reunion was joyful, but not simple. Bianca had changed—quieter, older in ways time alone couldn't explain. She had lived among the people who destroyed her family, learned their language, adopted their habits, survived in a world most white Texans knew only through fear.

Coming home meant crossing back over that invisible border—and it wasn't easy.

The Life After

Bianca returned to white society and eventually married William Robinson Friend. She built a life familiar to many frontier women—farming, children, household labor—but carried knowledge almost no other white woman of her era possessed: firsthand experience of Comanche life on the eve of its destruction.

Her brother Dot, who was held longer and assimilated more deeply, later wrote a memoir, *In the Bosom of the Comanches* (1912). Bianca's story was included—one of the few female captivity accounts offering detail without sensationalism or myth-making.

Why Her Story Matters

Bianca's experience sits at the crossroads of a complicated and painful history.

The 1860s and 1870s marked the final years of Comanche resistance. Within a decade, the last free bands would be forced onto reservations. Their way of life—nomadic, buffalo-centered, fiercely mobile—was ending.

Captivity narratives from this period often served agendas: some demonized Indigenous people to justify violence; others romanticized them in equal distortion. Bianca's account is valuable because it does neither.

She never romanticized her captors — she witnessed her mother's murder.

But she also didn't dehumanize them — she lived with them, learned from them, saw their world up close.

Her narrative provides rare documentation of daily Comanche life from someone who participated, not observed.

The Last Generation

Bianca belonged to the final generation of white child captives adopted into Plains tribes. By 1875, raids ceased. The frontier closed. And a chapter of American history disappeared forever.

She survived her mother's murder at ten.

She endured seven months of captivity.

She adapted, learned, and returned with memories of two worlds that would never reconcile.

She offered one of the few female voices describing Comanche life in its last free years.

Her story is not simple. Not comfortable. And not easy to categorize.

It is the story of a child trapped between cultures in collision — who chose survival, crossed an invisible border, and lived to tell what she saw.

Bianca Babb: the ten-year-old who walked through two worlds and left behind the truth.



<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19yE4QQasm/>

Shared from midwestliving.com: One of the Nation's Largest Urban Native American Communities is Driving a Cultu..

The Twin Cities is home to one of the largest urban Indigenous communities in the nation—and they're driving a cultural revolution. From sacred land restoration to award-winning restaurants like the

award-winning Owamni, here's your guide to experiencing Minneapolis and St. Paul's Native American renaissance. Read More: https://www.midwestliving.com/native-american-cultural-revolution-twin-cities-11835638?utm_source=emailshare&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=mobilesharebutton2

Indian Casino

By [Brendan Riley](#) (one of my favorite (retired) AP reporters)

The federal Interior Department, hit with a ruling that it violated rights of a Pomo tribe seeking full-scale casino gambling at a planned Vallejo resort, now promises fairness – but also says it's concerned about possible “legal errors” in its January order favoring such gambling.

William “Billy” Kirkland III, President Donald Trump’s newly confirmed assistant Interior secretary for Indian Affairs, made the comments in a Dec. 3 letter to the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, planning a \$700 million resort on its new trust land in Vallejo.

Kirkland also stated that his agency’s pending reconsideration of the January gambling eligibility finding – granted in the final days of former President Joe Biden’s term – would be completed as quickly as possible.

Kirkland’s letter followed an Oct. 30 ruling by U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden that Interior’s flip-flop last March to rescind the gambling eligibility violated the Pomo tribe’s constitutional due-process rights.

But McFadden rejected the tribe’s bid to block Interior from moving ahead with a longer-term reconsideration of the favorable January decision -- and cautioned that the Scotts Valley Band “would be ill-served by placing undue reliance” on his ruling restoring the gambling option. He said the new Interior administration could eventually cancel the option again.

Both the review process and the immediate gaming-option withdrawal last March by Interior were sought by the wealthy Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation that doesn’t want competition for its long-established Cache Creek Resort about 60 miles north of Vallejo.

Yocha Dehe also claims a cultural “easement” in Vallejo and contends the Pomo tribe lacks that connection. The Scotts Valley Band’s original area was in Lake County, about 90 miles from Vallejo, although Interior approved its 160-acre Vallejo trust land in January and isn’t backtracking on that action.

In a related Dec. 5 development, lawyers for Scotts Valley moved on procedural grounds to seek dismissal of three lawsuits in McFadden’s court brought by the Yocha Dehe and two other casino-owning tribes, Lytton Rancheria of California and United Auburn Indian Community to block the casino project and new Scotts Valley homeland in Vallejo.

In 2019 the first Trump administration rejected the Scotts Valley tribe's plan, but U.S. District Judge Amy Berman-Jackson ordered reconsideration of that decision on grounds it was "arbitrary and capricious." That led to the Interior Department's favorable decision last January.

Judge Berman-Jackson cited historic evidence that connected the Scotts Valley tribe to the Vallejo location. That included tribal travels in the 1800s to a Vallejo ranch for supplies and livestock herding on other ranches in Napa and Sonoma counties by Pomo vaqueros. Those vaqueros included one called Chief Augustine, who worked for Mariano Vallejo, the city of Vallejo's namesake. Vallejo and his brother Salvador in the pre-statehood 1830s and 1840s forced many Pomos to move from their Clear Lake-area homeland to work on their vast properties.

Augustine also herded cattle for Benjamin and Andrew Kelsey and Charles Stone on land near Clear Lake – where several hundred Pomos were slaughtered by U.S. Cavalry troops and vigilantes in an 1850 attack known as the Bloody Island Massacre.

Yocha Dehe representatives contend the Scotts Valley Band can't claim a historic connection to Vallejo – a requirement for the band's resort project – and falsely stated that Chief Augustine lived in Vallejo. However, Scotts Valley Band leaders deny saying Augustine lived here and note that Judge Berman-Jackson based her finding of a historic connection on other factors.

The Scotts Valley project developer is Gregory Lee, a prominent Southern Nevada hotel-casino operator. Lee already has numerous business holdings in Vallejo. His family has ties to the community going back more than a century.

The proposed Pomo resort site is located on the flank of Hunters Hill overlooking Vallejo, on the northeast side of the busy Interstate 80-State Route 37 interchange. Already at or near other corners of the interchange are the Six Flags Discovery Kingdom theme park and a major shopping center.

Image is an an architectural rendering of the proposed Vallejo resort.

Trending Now: A planned copper mine threatens a sacred Apache tradition

A girl's coming-of-age ceremony could be the last at Oak Flat before copper mining potentially transforms the site in Arizona.

[Angela Motorman](#)

For more than 80 years, the Magma Copper Co. ran an operation near Oak Flat. When geologists discovered a huge untapped deposit with high-grade copper at Oak Flat in 1995, the pressure intensified to build a mine. But Oak Flat, which lies within the Tonto National Forest and is controlled by the U.S. Forest Service, has part of the deposit that has been protected from mining. Congress found a way around this problem in 2014 when it passed a law that lifted the ban, allowing a private company to swap land it owns for access to public land. Resolution Copper has offered to exchange 5,000 acres elsewhere in Arizona for 2,400 acres around Oak Flat, but a court injunction has temporarily stopped the transfer. Rep. Adelita Grijalva (D-

Arizona) introduced legislation Wednesday to repeal the land exchange with Resolution Copper, a bill similar to one her father filed unsuccessfully in 2015.

Mining the ore beneath Oak Flat would not be easy. Roughly a mile beneath the surface, material would be removed from below the deposit and transported underground to a processing facility about 2.5 miles away. As the ore gets removed, the rock above would gradually collapse.

In a report this year, the U.S. Forest Service said such mining would ultimately create a crater 1,000 feet deep and two miles wide. By comparison that’s about two times the height of the Washington Monument and the length of the National Mall.

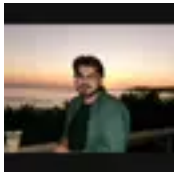
I’ve been a pediatrician for 10 years—here are 9 ‘hard truths’ parents need to hear: It will ‘help you raise happier, healthier kids

[Dr. Mona Amin, Contributor](#)

https://www.cnbc.com/2025/12/05/pediatrician-of-10-years-9-hard-truths-to-help-parents-raise-happier-healthier-kids.html?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us

New Details On \$1K 'Trump Accounts' For CA Babies

The plan applies to children born through the calendar years of the Trump administration.



[Fernando Haro](#), Patch Staff

CALIFORNIA — Children born to California parents in 2025 could get a \$1,000 financial boost when they turn 18 under a lesser-known provision of President Donald Trump’s tax legislation passed earlier this year.

All California parents of newborns, regardless of their financial circumstances, can open a “[Trump Account](#)” to help save and build wealth for many of the expenses that come with adulthood. The plan applies to children born through the calendar years of the Trump administration.

Thanks to [a historic donation](#) announced Tuesday by billionaires Michael and Susan Dell, some children 10 and under could receive \$250 in seed money if their parents open an account. That money is reserved for kids who live in ZIP codes with a median family income of \$150,000 or less and who won’t get the \$1,000 seed money from the Treasury.

Here’s what California parents need to know about the Trump Accounts and how to claim them.

What Is A Trump Account?

It’s a new savings tool where money is invested in the stock market on behalf of a child. The

child can't access the money until they turn 18 and can only use it for specific purposes, such as paying tuition, starting a business or making a down payment on a home.

After a parent opens an account, the U.S. Treasury will contribute \$1,000 for newborns. Private banks and brokerages will manage the money, which must be invested in U.S. equity index funds that track the stock market and charge the accounts no more than 0.10 percent in annual fees.

Parents can contribute up to \$2,500 annually in pretax income, much like they do for retirement accounts. Parents' employers, relatives, friends, local governments and philanthropic groups can also pitch in. Yearly contributions are capped at \$5,000, but contributions from governments and charities don't count toward that total.

Who Gets \$1,000?

To qualify for the \$1,000 seed money, a baby must be a U.S. citizen, have a Social Security number and be born between Jan. 1, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2028. Any parent can open an account for a qualifying child, regardless of the parent's immigration status.

It's important to note that the child won't be able to access the money until they turn 18, except in rare circumstances, so it can't help with immediate expenses. And disbursements from the accounts will be subject to taxes.

What About Older Children?

Children born before 2025 won't qualify for the \$1,000 incentive, but parents can still open accounts for them as long as they're under 18. Parents can still invest up to \$2,500 pretax for those kids, and they may benefit from the Dells' donation, giving \$250 to children 10 and under in certain ZIP codes.

How Do Parents Open Accounts?

The accounts won't be open for contributions until July 2026. But parents of eligible kids can sign up now by filling out Form 4547 from the Internal Revenue Service. As of Wednesday morning, that form was not yet available on [the Trump Accounts website](#).

In May, parents who sign up will get information about how to finish opening the accounts. Beginning in July, the White House says it will have a website where parents can register for the accounts.

What's The Idea Behind The Accounts?

Backers of the accounts say they want to introduce more people to the stock market and give even children born into poverty a chance to benefit from it. They believe that giving every newborn \$1,000 will help combat the rising popularity of socialism and offer more people the opportunity to build wealth. About [58 percent of U.S. households](#) held stocks or bonds in 2022, according to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, though the [wealthiest 1 percent](#) owned almost half the value of stocks in that same year.

Before Trump created the accounts, California, Connecticut and the District of Columbia were piloting "baby bonds" programs that are similar to Trump Accounts in some ways. Several other states, including Maryland, are weighing programs.

But those programs are targeted for youth growing up in poverty or foster care, plus children who lost a parent to COVID-19. Wealthier children don't benefit.

They're also managed by the state, not private investment firms.

What Do Critics Say?

Critics point out the accounts do little to help children in their early years, when they're most vulnerable and most likely to be in poverty. They also say the accounts do little to offset the cuts the Trump administration and congressional Republicans have made to other programs that benefit young people and their families, including [food assistance](#) and Medicaid.

Republicans created the accounts in the same Trump tax bill that [reduced spending](#) for some of those programs.

And even with the contribution from the government, critics say the Trump Accounts will widen the wealth gap. Affluent families that can afford to make the maximum pretax contribution to the accounts will realize the greatest benefits. Poor families who can't afford to set aside money for the accounts will benefit the least. Assuming a 7 percent return, the \$1,000 in seed money would grow to roughly \$3,570 over 18 years.

The above may be controversial for many reasons, mostly that it gives the financial world more money to play with and no guarantees for investors. One could take the \$1000 and not add any personal funds to it in order to avoid any real loss. So sad that RSIC canned the Investent Circle as it gave participants all the same benefits/protections but none of the controversies.

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Join us Thursday December 11, 2025, at 1:30pm PST to learn about the SBA Nevada District Office's nomination categories, eligibility, and tips for writing an award-winning nomination!

Register Here: [Submitting an Award-Winning NSBW Nomination](#)

If you know a small business with exceptional innovation, growth, community engagement or resilience, put them in the spotlight by submitting a nomination. Don't miss the opportunity to honor the entrepreneurial spirit that drives our economy forward.

#### Basic Eligibility Requirements:

- Any legal resident of the United States or its Territories who owns 51% of a business and operates a small business for a minimum of three years and have received at least one type of SBA assistance.
- Submission Deadline: Thursday, December 22, 2025, 11:00am PT

Nominations can only be accepted for one award category. Those who have received a small business award in the past three years are not eligible. Anyone can nominate a small business, and a small business can self-nominate. For local area and other related information, visit online at [Nevada District Office Awards | U.S. Small Business Administration](#).