

## ***Journal #6130      from sdc      12.8.25***

*Nearly 900 acres of land on Yosemite border returned to tribe forced out 175 years ago*

*Trump has promised to bring gasoline prices below \$2 a gallon*

*Strength training has all sorts of benefits*

*Consensual Curation and our Common Future*

*Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Minneapolis American Indian Center*

*From the Golden State Salmon Association*

*Rescinding Public Lands Rule would hurt recreation economy*

*Drought Status Update for California-Nevada*

*School choice and low funding create enrollment vacuum for Nevada public schools*

*Nevada tribe seeks review of ruling built on Navajo Nation water case*

*American Indian College Fund*

*The Kids Are Already in Charge - Stories that prove the next generation isn't waiting to lead*

*Miigwechiwendam: To be Thankful*

*2025 Update of my 2024 Thanksgiving remarks*



### **Nearly 900 acres of land on Yosemite border returned to tribe forced out 175 years ago**

Scenic property was once considered for inclusion in Yosemite National Park but blocked by GOP congressman

**READ STORY**

- **Trump has promised to bring gasoline prices below \$2 a gallon, but experts call that highly unlikely.** Trump's bid to boost oil supplies — and lower U.S. prices — is complicated by his threat to impose 25% import tariffs on two of the largest sources of U.S. oil imports, Canada and Mexico. The oil industry warned the tariffs could raise



prices and even harm national security.

**Strong start:** You probably know that strength training has all sorts of benefits, like building muscle mass and protecting against bone loss. But be honest: Are you intimidated by the thought of lifting weights? [My personal trainer shares what beginners need to know](#)

## Consensual Curation and Our Common Future

By Tamara Serrao-Leiva

As the pendulum has swung on repatriation and restitution, museums have been locked into a binary between holding onto collections and letting them go. But are these really the only options? Here's why one curator believes the future lies in a middle ground of collaborative agreements, and how she's worked to develop them with tribal and international governments in recent years.

[Read more »](#)



## Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Minneapolis American Indian Center



I was incredibly proud to honor the Minneapolis American Indian Center on the House floor this week as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. For five decades, the Center has been a cornerstone of cultural preservation and support for Native families in Minnesota. It stands as a powerful example of strength in the Native community and a reminder of the important role Native-led institutions play in advancing justice. I'm grateful to celebrate this milestone and the generations of work that made it possible. Watch [here](#).

In Solidarity,

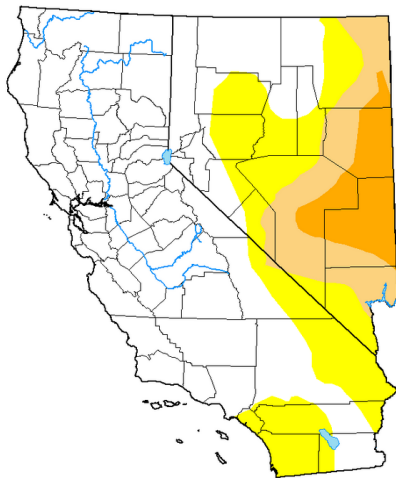
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ilhan Omar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

***"O let America be America again-  
The land that never has been yet-and yet must be - the land where every man is free.  
The land that's mine...the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, ME who made America.  
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,  
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,  
Must bring back our mighty dream again."  
Langston Hughes (1936)***

### **Rescinding Public Lands Rule would hurt recreation economy**

John Haschak, a Mendocino County supervisor, writes, “Here on the North Coast of California, public lands and waters define our way of life. The rivers, Bureau of Land Management lands and forests in and around Mendocino County provide us with clean drinking water and places to get outside to hike, hunt, fish and more. They create sustainable outdoor recreation and tourism jobs. These public lands make up our cultural and economic fibers. How they’re managed impacts us every day. As a Mendocino County supervisor, I am keenly aware of how local governments need to manage the real-world impacts of land and water policies that are sometimes decided thousands of miles away in Washington without proper transparency and public input. That’s why I was deeply concerned when the Trump administration announced its intention to fully rescind the Public Lands Rule. ... ” [Continue reading at the Marin Independent Journal](#).

### **Drought Status Update for California-Nevada**



“Water Year 2026 (October 1, 2025–September 20, 2026) began very differently than Water Year 2025. Drought developed in the first few months of the last water year and expanded over the region. This water year, over the course of 2 months, drought across California-Nevada has improved by 1-3 categories, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Since the start of the 2026 Water Year on October 1, several areas of California-Nevada have received more than 300% of normal water year to date precipitation, improving soil moisture conditions. Snowpack is starting to build, albeit slowly due to much-above-normal temperatures. Long-term drought (according to the U.S. Drought Monitor) lingers from central-southern Nevada to the California border, an extension of drought conditions from the Southwestern U.S. Extended range outlooks remain uncertain for December. NOAA’s National Weather Service forecasts a break in precipitation over the next two weeks, with slight indications for Southern California to be drier than normal through February.” [Read the full update from NIDIS](#).



[School choice and low funding create enrollment vacuum for Nevada public schools](#)

## Nevada tribe seeks review of ruling built on Navajo Nation water case

“A Nevada tribe is asking a federal appeals court to reconsider a ruling that relies in part on a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision involving the Navajo Nation, a case that reshaped the limits of federal responsibility for tribal water rights. The Winnemucca Indian Colony this week petitioned the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit for an en banc rehearing of a decision that dismissed its \$208 million breach of trust lawsuit against the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The tribe argues the court wrongly applied the Supreme Court’s 2023 ruling in *Arizona v. Navajo Nation* to justify the dismissal of its claims involving the diversion of existing tribal water. ... ” [Read more from the Navajo Times](#).



Across the country, a community of supporters are coming together for 2026 with one shared belief:

**Native students deserve opportunity — and education is the answer.**

*These students are prepared.*

*Their dreams are real.*

*For many, hard work in the classroom is already underway.*





Ashley lost her mother just weeks before graduating college, but we surrounded her with encouragement and scholarship support.

***“It was hope. It was someone saying, ‘We see you. We believe in you.’”***

Today, Ashley is well on her way to a Doctorate in Nursing Practice — and to making sure Native families like hers will be seen and heard in the medical system.



For students like Major, the path may have been clear early: study medicine, become a healer. But he struggled to find his place at an Ivy League college. You did more than send financial help — you sent a message: you belong here and you are believed in. Today, he aspires to expand access to healthcare for at-risk children as a doctor.

Thousands of students like Ashley and Major stand to reach their full potential —

**if they can count on us now.**

What happens next depends on who chooses to stand with them.

That is why we are inviting you **to accept your place as a 2026 Supporter** today with a generous gift.

Your gift today will be the encouragement that carries a student forward.

~~~~~

## The Kids Are Already in Charge - Stories that prove the next generation isn't waiting to lead

CASEY BURGAT

**Extract:** As a government professor, I get one question more than almost any other: “Do you have any hope in the next generation?” Not *for* the next generation (though that is a common one, too); hope *in* the next generation.

As a government professor, I get one question more than almost any other: “Do you have any hope in the next generation?” Not *for* the next generation (though that is a common one, too); hope *in* the next generation.

The tone accompanying the obviously leading question is always the same — worry wrapped in nostalgia, seasoned with that familiar complaint that “kids these days” are too fragile, too distracted, too online, too disengaged to run the country they’re about to inherit.

I get it. There are some very troubling trends with today’s youth. An average of nearly **7.5 hours** on screens every single day. Almost **40% of US teens** report regular feelings of sadness or hopelessness. Soaring diagnosis rates of **ADHD** and anxiety at the same time as **declining test scores** in math, reading, and science. Oh, and much lower **voter turnout rates** than their elders

And yet, despite all the stats and stereotypes, my experience teaching, working with, and advising the next generation has given me a much different answer to the question of whether I have hope in them: “They are pissed, and in all the right ways.”

Not apathetic. Not indifferent. Not asleep at the wheel.

Compassionate. Tolerant. Unsatisfied. Unbelievably creative and technologically savvy. Frustrated at the broken systems and promises of those who came before. Unwilling to accept the status quo. And, if given a little nudge, more than willing to use their talents for change.

You are forgiven if you’re a bit skeptical. After all, complaining about the youth being too entitled or unwilling to listen is as old as civilization itself. No, not the United States —

civilization. One of the earliest recorded complaints about “kids these days” comes from an inscription on a Babylonian clay tablet from around 1000 BC, quoted in Robert Greene’s *The Laws of Human Nature*: “Today’s youth is rotten, evil, godless and lazy. It will never be what youth used to be, and it will never be able to preserve our culture.”

It’s nothing new even if everything is different.

And yet, for all our recycled anxieties about “kids these days,” we keep overlooking a simple truth: every generation has its doers. This one is no exception. In fact, they may be ahead of schedule. The next generation is not waiting for permission to lead. They’re already doing it.

When I was told this edition of *The Preamble* was about inspiration, I knew my contribution would have two tenets. First, it wouldn’t be about a name or story you already know (the famous already hog the spotlight). And second, it would be about younger folks, in an effort to combat the assumptions and complaints of the older.

In short, I got to work to find an uplifting but untold story of a young person making a difference. And within minutes I was drowning in possibilities. Rural kids building broadband networks. Indigenous teens running public-health systems. College students exposing government failures. High school coders building eviction-prevention tools.

I kept reading. And reading. And reading.

At some point, I stopped looking for “the best example” and realized *the fact that there are too many stories to choose from is the entire point*.

Across the country, on issues that cut across geography, ideology, and identity, young Americans are solving civic problems adults have spent entire careers complaining about. They’re not the caricatures older generations invent for them.

They are, in the most literal sense, already leading and making change.

Below is just a sampling of under-the-radar stories of young Americans tackling civic challenges with the kind of creativity, urgency, and practicality our politics desperately needs.

Let’s meet a few of them.

### **Alaska Native Teens Who Mapped Climate Collapse Before FEMA Did**

Along Alaska’s western coast, where Yup’ik and Inupiat communities watch permafrost melt beneath their homes and storm-driven erosion eat away entire shorelines, a group of young researchers refused to wait for government agencies to show up.



Working through the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program and the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Geophysical Institute, high-school and college-aged interns **began using** drones, GPS units, time-lapse cameras, and open-source **GIS** (graphic information system) tools to map coastal erosion and thawing permafrost with a level of detail state and federal agencies simply didn't have.

Their work was not symbolic. It was scientific — and crucial.



The students produced **high-resolution imagery** in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, the North Slope, and the communities around Bristol Bay, documenting how water erosion threatens vital community infrastructure. UAF scientists incorporated the youth-generated data into larger coastal-change models, and tribal and local governments used the students' maps to support applications for federal resilience and relocation funding — including major grants from the Denali Commission and FEMA hazard-mitigation programs.

In some regions, these student-produced datasets were the first comprehensive mapping of erosion ever completed.

While agencies debated responsibility, these teens built the evidence record themselves — proving, with data and drone footage, that their villages weren't just at risk. They were disappearing in real time.

Others:

### **California Teens Who Turned Wildfire Trauma into Life-Saving Engineering**

After **watching** the 2018 Camp Fire destroy nearly 18,000 homes, 13-year-old Ryan Honary decided he wasn't willing to wait for the next catastrophe.

### **The Colorado Teen Who Turned Curiosity into World-Changing Innovation**

When most 11-year-olds were figuring out middle school, Gitanjali Rao was figuring out how to detect lead in drinking water faster than any existing technology.

## The Rhode Island Fifth-Grader Who Turned French-Fry Grease into Heat for Families

When she was just ten years old, Cassandra Lin noticed restaurants in her coastal Rhode Island town were tossing out thousands of gallons of used cooking oil every week, all while low-income families down the street struggled to pay for winter heat.

**The Teenager Rebuilding the STEM Pipeline from the Inside Out** In 2019, 18-year-old Emily Cho was quietly building a national youth-run STEM organization designed for students unlikely to see themselves in science at all. What started as a small project out of her Rhode Island living room became **Juvie for STEM (JSTEM)** — an ed-tech nonprofit that sends teen instructors into underserved classrooms and even juvenile justice facilities to run hands-on science and engineering labs.

## The Teen Who Refused to Wait — and Built a Voting Movement

And in the cause closest to my soul, 16-year-old Jahnavi Rao stood outside her high school in Berwyn, PA, and felt voiceless. Too young to vote, she spent hours listening to her older classmates debate issues that would shape their lives — and hers. So she started **New Voters**, a school-club project built around one idea: register eligible teens now so their own generation won't be ignored later.

### The Preamble

[reply+2zmci0&2i447r&&c9d8d49ffa3b58095862fc610f7b5214e5d5bc2952a8982b6fc71d0bd2643e0d@mg1.substack.com](mailto:reply+2zmci0&2i447r&&c9d8d49ffa3b58095862fc610f7b5214e5d5bc2952a8982b6fc71d0bd2643e0d@mg1.substack.com)

~~~~~  
**Miigwechiwendam: To Be Thankful 11/28/2024**

**What a thousand-year-old Indigenous prayer teaches us about reciprocity and healing from the destructive consumption of our society**

*And someone reminded me of my 2024 thanksgiving remarks which I failed to repeat this year, so here they are:*

....And to all of you....we are so blessed to be living in this time and place.\*

I am thankful to have all of you in my life and to communicate in so many smallways.

I am thankful that we all have been able to participate in a history that gets better and better.

I am thankful that there are still people in the world that meet challenges straight on and have persistence to keep their “ eyes on the prize”.

I am thankful that there are those who renew our faith in mankind and potential, rather than give into the negative putdowns that abound.

Enjoy this special time. sdc

*\*(2025 update:But now we have to have the tenacity to retain it.)*

## *History Bits*

**1855 Dec 9** A 3-day campaign by Oregon whites ended in which the peaceful Walla Walla tribe was attacked and five people (including **Chief Peopeomoxmox**) were murdered.

**1859 Dec 8** Priority date set for Pyramid Lake water rights.

**1866 Dec 12** The U.S. Army established Camp Winfield Scott in Paradise Valley (Humboldt); abandoned February 1871.

**1874 Dec 9** US Rep Geo McCrary (IA) introduced legislation to extinguish Sioux title to the Black Hills.

**1884 Dec 11** In the aftermath of the Bannock War, the *Silver State* observed peaceful Paiutes treated as hostile, removed to Yakima, promised they could return to Nevada — a promise not kept.

**1906 Dec 9** *NSJ* reported efforts of whites to develop mining inside the Walker Lake reservation, included Charles Schwab and Malcom McDonald, who located a mine and started the town of Avelon, about twelve miles south of Schurz.

**1934 Dec 10** Federal Emergency Relief Administration state administrator Gilbert Rose announced that up to 2,000 jobless native Americans in Nevada would be given work under the Nevada FERA.

**1936 Dec 19** Bureau of Indian Affairs authorized approval to purchase Campbell Ranch near Yerington as Paiute Indian Colony; enlarged in 1841.

**1859 Dec 8** Leaders from Pyramid Lake tribe visited Squaw Valley\* to do a “snow dance” for forthcoming winter Olympics. \* now Palisades Tahoe

**1966 Dec 8** The Nevada Indian Commission endorsed a request for Congress to provide funds for a feasibility study of water resources for the Yomba Reservation.

**1966 Dec 14** In a three day meeting in Las Vegas, Native leaders from NV, UT, SD, CA and AZ was held to discuss grievances with US Indian Commissioner Robert Bennett and US Rep Ben Reifel, Sioux (SD), ended in hostility with few issues resolved.  
(*Ed note: I was there!*)

**1997 Dec 10** Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribal Clinic held its grand opening