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Twas the Night Before

Treatment of Native peoples must be taught

Furry mountaineer

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NARF News



Treatment of Native peoples must be taught

Assembly Bill 1821 mandates that California public schools provide students a “foundation of understanding” surrounding the historical treatment of Native Americans during the Spanish mission period and the Gold Rush era.

“I’m proud of the progress California has made to reckon with the dark chapters of our past, and we’re committed to continuing this important work to promote equity, inclusion and accountability for Native peoples,” [Newsom said](#) when signing the bill in September.

Take your family history adventure to the next level by joining us in person in Salt Lake City, Utah March 6–8, 2025. If you can't make it, you can still [join online for free](#).

[Register Now](#)

Furry mountaineer. Agnese Abrusci (Senior media editor). This [highly commended photo from the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition](#), run by the Natural History Museum in London, captures an ermine (*Mustela erminea*) clambering between rocks. The composition is extraordinary: the vertical crack frames the snowy white animal like a piece of living art. Photographer Larry Taylor describes how the creature was hot on the trail of its prey, “rocketing up the crack in the cliff wall with incredible speed, darting in and out of the shadows”. Although it ultimately missed its mark and tumbled back down into the snow, the ermine immediately sprang back up, racing once again up the sheer rock face. Perched against the odds, it seems to remind us all to persist through life’s challenges. (Pic would not transfer)

Larry Taylor/Wildlife Photographer of the Year



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

NOFO	Grant Opportunity Title	Posted Date	Close Date
USDA-FS-2025-LSR -NATIONAL-TRIBAL View Opportunity	2025 Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program for Tribes Department of Agriculture -- Forest Service	August 12, 2024	December 16, 2024
DE-FOA-0003403 View Opportunity	TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PLANNING FOR CLEAN ENERGY - 2025 Department of Energy	September 26, 2024	December 18, 2024
20250110-PF View Opportunity	Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections National Endowment for the Humanities	October 4, 2024	January 10, 2025
HHS-2025-IHS- TMD-0001 View Opportunity	Tribal Management Grant Program Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Service	November 22, 2024	January 13, 2025
USDA-FS-2025-CFP View Opportunity	Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program Department of Agriculture	October 23, 2024	January 13, 2025
2025TTPSF View Opportunity	2025 Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund Department of Transportation	October 1, 2024	January 15, 2025
BIA-TEDC-2025-01 View Opportunity	Tribal Energy Development Capacity Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs	October 18, 2024	January 16, 2025
HHS-2025-ACF- OHS-HI-0066 View Opportunity	American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Ex- pansion, Early Head Start Expansion, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grants Department of Health and Human Services	November 19, 2024	January 21, 2025
20250212-BH-BG View Opportunity	Landmarks of American History and Culture National Endowment for the Humanities	October 23, 2024	February 12, 2025
R25AS00016 View Opportunity	Native American Affairs: Technical Assistance to Tribes for Fiscal Year 2025 Department of the Interior	November 19, 2024	February 27, 2025

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Carnegie Corporation of New York

Carnegie's new grantmaking initiative, Libraries as Pillars of Education and Democracy, is supporting public libraries nationwide with \$5 million in grants.

Take the survey today to find out if your library is eligible.



FORM ON FACEBOOK

Is your library eligible for a Carnegie Grant?

Carnegie's new grantmaking initiative, Libraries as Pillars of Education and Democracy, will support public libraries in communities nationwide with \$5 million in grants. The grants will help public libraries deliver critical services that promote socioeconomic mobility, civic participation, and social belonging. To find out if your library is eligible, complete the survey by January 10, 2025.

National Opportunity

\$10 Million Challenge Seeks a Solution to Build Trust in U.S. Institutions

The Trust in American Institutions Challenge is a \$10 million open call designed to scale a bold solution that will build and restore public trust in the core institutions that form the pillars of society in the United States.

Services for Individuals Living With Spinal Cord Injury Supported

The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation is dedicated to supporting programs and scientific research to improve the quality of life for those living with spinal cord injury.

Grants Promote Efforts to Bridge Divides on U.S. Campuses

Interfaith America's Strengthening the Campus Community grants support projects based at U.S. colleges and universities that bring together diverse groups of students in order to bridge meaningful divides on their campus or between students on campus and their local community.

Funds Available for Youth Gardens and Greenspaces

The GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant, a collaboration between The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening, aims to bring the life-enhancing benefits of gardens to communities across the United States.

Regional Opportunities

Grants Aim to Improve Oral Health in MI, OH, IN, and NC

The Delta Dental Foundation provides support to organizations in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina for programs to improve oral health.

[Support Strengthens Rural Idaho and Montana Communities](#)

The Steele-Reese Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations and government entities for work in rural Idaho and Montana communities and the Native nations sharing this geography.

[Programs Serving Children Funded in Vermont](#)

The Turrell Fund supports organizations serving children, especially the youngest, and their families in Vermont and Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Union counties in New Jersey.

[Grants Advance Legal Access and Education in South Carolina](#)

The mission of the South Carolina Bar Foundation is to promote justice by funding legal access and education in South Carolina.

[Federal Opportunities](#)

[Funds Available to Improve Rural Health](#)

The Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program supports organizations that promote rural healthcare services outreach by improving and expanding the delivery of healthcare services to include new and enhanced services in rural areas.

[Program Promotes Arts for the Underserved](#)

The Challenge America program offers support primarily to small organizations for projects in all artistic disciplines that extend the reach of the arts to populations that are underserved.

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**[Sustainable Forests and Communities Initiative](#)**

The goal of the Sustainable Forests and Communities Initiative is to support the development of environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable communities in forested regions of the United States. The Initiative supports programs within forested communities that promote, in an integrated fashion, forest conservation, the creation of jobs or businesses based on sustainable forestry, and public consensus-building. [Learn more](#) about the funding guidelines and application process.

**[The DierenPark Amersfoort Wildlife Fund](#)**

The DierenPark Amersfoort (Amersfoort Zoo) Wildlife Fund is dedicated to the protection of nature, especially endangered species. The Fund supports projects around the world related to nature conservation and species preservation. [Learn more](#) about the funding guidelines and application process.

[Hiscox Insurance](#) lists 31 small business grants and funding opportunities for women-owned businesses.

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A new report from NDN Collective, Meeting the Moment: A Call to Radically Transform Philanthropy for Indigenous Communities, reveals critical gaps in U.S. philanthropic funding to Indigenous communities and presents an urgent call to action for systemic change. The report analyzes how philanthropy to Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led organizations has shifted since NDN's founding in 2018.

[Read the Full Press Release Here](#)

Housing help for Native Americans

Know what government programs offer housing assistance to Native Americans. You may be eligible for help through programs like:

- [The Housing Improvement Program \(HIP\)](#): a home improvement and replacement grant program for Native Americans with low incomes
- [The Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program](#): offers government-backed mortgages to help Native American families buy homes.
- **The Homelessness and Housing Needs of Native American Veterans Toolkit** ([download PDF](#)) can help untangle some of the complexities and provide you resources. [Homelessness and Housing Needs of Native American Veterans Toolkit](#)

From neon to nuclear reactors: 12 oddball museums in Nevada

<https://thenevadanews.com/community/from-neon-to-nuclear-reactors-oddball-museums-in-nevada/>

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### **After saying tours of the historic St. Paul house would go on, officials reversed course later Friday. [https://youtu.be/zhCKnOoDW38?si=jLKuwzH8R6E\\_Va6k](https://youtu.be/zhCKnOoDW38?si=jLKuwzH8R6E_Va6k)**

After receiving criticism for scheduling tours of the Alexander Ramsey House in St. Paul on Dec. 26, the Minnesota Historical Society reversed course Friday afternoon and canceled the events.

Tours of the historic mansion have been suspended for years on that date in recognition of the 1862 mass hanging outside Mankato of 38 Dakota men while Ramsey was governor.

But this year, officials with the Minnesota Historical Society, which owns the 19th century house and 25 other historic sites across Minnesota, said new staff members were unaware of that practice and tickets were sold for four tours.

Ben Leonard, the nonprofit's vice president of historic sites, said in a statement earlier Friday that officials would go through with the booking and make note of the day's significance during the tours. But later Friday, he said the tours would be canceled after receiving "very valuable feedback" and "out of respect for the Dakota community and to allow for a day of mourning on this painful anniversary."

He said they will fully refund ticketholders and offer free tickets to Holidays at the Hill tours at the James J. Hill House.

It would have been the first time since at least before the pandemic that tour groups were set to go through the Ramsey House on Dec. 26. It had been the practice to suspend tours on that date because of Ramsey's role as governor leading up to the mass hanging — and the later banishment of the Dakota from Minnesota.

According to Minnesota Historical Society records, in a special session of the state Legislature in September 1862, Ramsey said: "Our course then is plain. The Sioux Indians of Minnesota must be exterminated or driven forever beyond the borders of Minnesota."

Josie Bergmann, a tour guide at the Ramsey House for the last five years, was the first to raise concerns publicly about the tours being conducted for the first time in years.

"It is deeply disappointing," she said before the tours were later canceled. "No. 1, that we didn't recognize this error. And, then that it's still going to go on. It sends a bad message."

The Historical Society's change of course came after the Minnesota Star Tribune sent emails Friday asking officials, including director and CEO Kent Whitworth, whether they consulted with Native American officials before deciding to continue the tours.

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More Than 3,100 Students Died at Schools Built to Crush Native American Cultures

<https://www.rsn.org/001/more-than-3100-students-died-at-schools-built-to-crush-native-american-cultures.html>

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### **Feds give tribe a 'lifeline' with option for 'emergency casino' near Rochester**

Federal ruling would allow Prairie Island Indian Community to build an interim casino on site of failed Elk Run biotech development.

Six years after [purchasing 1,200 acres](#) of land just north of Rochester, the Prairie Island Indian Community has secured federal approval to recognize a portion of the land as sovereign tribal territory.

The decision, announced this month by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, puts 400 acres of the Elk Run property the tribe owns into a federal trust, granting the tribe the tax benefits and other protections afforded to tribal lands. It also raises the possibility of the site being used for a casino.

While the tribe said it has no immediate plans to develop the land, its application noted the potential need to build an "emergency gaming facility" on the site in the event a disaster impacts operations at Treasure Island, the casino and resort it owns near Red Wing. The interim casino would be built inside a 22,000-square-foot barn on the property that is now vacant.

The approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs also opened the possibility for a permanent casino to be built on the site after a six-year forbearance period “should the Tribe determine additional Tribal economic income and employment opportunities are needed.”

For years, the tribe has raised concerns about catastrophic flooding impacting the reservation, including the casino, the tribe’s primary source of revenue. The tribe has also expressed worry about the presence of a nuclear generating plant, one of the oldest in the country, located about 700 yards away from the casino.

“[T]he funds generated by the emergency interim gaming facility will allow the Tribe to continue its critical governmental functions in the event of a closure of its main casino as a result of a natural or nuclear disaster,” reads the decision from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. “The Elk Run Site will become the Tribe’s lifeline in such an event and will serve as a means of recovery for the Tribe should such an event occur.”

As the tribe prepares its contingency options for keeping its gaming operations afloat, it is also awaiting approval for a second application covering the remaining 800 acres it owns near Pine Island.

Those plans center on housing for tribal members, which the tribe has said was its primary reason for purchasing the site in 2019 for \$15.5 million. The tribe has about 1,100 enrolled members, about 150 of whom are on a waiting list for housing on the reservation.

While no specifics have been laid out, the tribe said it has already hired a land planner and consulted tribal members about what a potential development could look like.

“For decades, Tribal leaders have sought to provide members with an option to live as a community and raise their families in ways consistent with who we are as Dakota people, at a safer distance from the ongoing threats we face,” said Grant Johnson, president of the Prairie Island Tribal Council, in a statement.

The tribe’s spokesperson declined interview requests.

Pine Island Mayor David Friese said the tribe has not offered the city a timetable of when it could begin construction. But he said from the beginning, the tribe has been upfront and open about its dire need for housing — a conclusion he also reached after touring the existing reservation.

Friese said while there are some infrastructure needs that must be addressed — including a [\\$90 million regional wastewater treatment plant](#) that the city has been asking the Legislature for — the city sees nothing but opportunity with the tribe’s planned development in the area.

“The challenges that might come out with that would be like any other community that has that growth going on,” Friese said in an interview. “We just want to make sure that Pine Island is in a position to welcome that growth and be prepared for it.”



City leaders have reason to be eager for the development of the Elk Run site. It has been 15 years since the property, located 15 minutes north of Rochester along Hwy. 52, was announced as the [future home of a \\$1 billion biotech business park](#) that would become a Midwest version of Silicon Valley.

Those plans, however, never materialized as questions began to emerge about the credibility of the proposal. The venture capitalist behind the project, G. Steven Burrill, was later sentenced to two and a half years in prison after pleading guilty to defrauding his investors and falsifying tax returns.

The [failed project left Pine Island](#), a city of about 3,800 people, with unpaid property taxes and a state-funded \$45 million highway interchange that built to accommodate traffic that never came.

Friese said the track record of the site made the community wary when the tribe first announced plans for the site. But as details emerged, he said the community reaction has been mostly positive.

“There were a lot of people that were just a little apprehensive because they needed to see whether or not this was going to actually happen,” said Friese, who was still in grade school when the initial Elk Run project was announced. “But if anything, it’s going to be an absolute boom in opportunity for the Pine Island area.”

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On behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack you are cordially invited to attend the free, virtual, and open to the public meeting of the Interagency Working Group on Cooperative Development

What Can the United States Learn from International Cooperative Ecosystems Wednesday, January 15, 2025 from 1-2:30 pm Eastern [REGISTER HERE](#)

The Mondragon cooperative system, the seventh largest corporation in Spain, lifted the Basque region out of poverty in the years following the Spanish Civil War (1936 through 1939), and now boasts \$12 billion in annual revenue.

Emilia Romagna is an Italian region where cooperatives are responsible for about a third of the gross domestic product.

The United Nations has declared 2025 to be the International Year of the Cooperative

What can we learn from these highly successful ecosystems? Are there U.S. communities already applying lessons from Mondragon and Emilia Romagna?

The meeting will feature a panel of distinguished speakers includes:

- Frederick Freundlich, professor at [Mondragon University](#)

- Matthew Hancock, author of [Compete to Cooperate](#) on the Emilia Romagna cooperative ecosystem
- Christina Clamp, [Cooperative Hall of Fame](#) member whose Mondragon scholarship informs the operation of worker cooperatives in the United States
- Eric Britton, attorney and author of "[Selling to Your Employees Through a Worker Cooperative](#)"
- [Deborah Groban Olson](#), attorney whose life's work has been to bring Mondragon principles to the United States

For background information on Mondragon watch [The World's Largest Worker Cooperative Network](#)

For background information on Emilia Romagna view [Bullfrog Films presents...WEconomics: Italy](#)

Please contact us at coopconnect@usda.gov if you have a success story, resource, or event that you would like us to include.

Bulletin Link: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/3c85e50>

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**Oakland 5th graders get an early start to financial literacy:** California school districts will soon be required to teach personal finance lessons, but for the last three years, students at Franklin Elementary School have been getting schooled on things like savings, credit and debt, receiving an allowance, setting financial goals, starting a business, and Wall Street 101. [Read more.](#)



Today, the U.S. Senate passed S. 1723, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act, with an amendment through **unanimous** consent. Now, the U.S. House of Representatives **must act swiftly** to pass this critical bill before the legislative window close.

This landmark legislation seeks to uncover the truth about the U.S. government's role in the Indian boarding school system, providing a path toward healing for Native communities. After years of bipartisan effort, S. 1723 has the support of **both sides of the aisle and of faith-based organizations**. It is also fully funded through existing budget allocations.

**Why It Matters:**

- The bill is budget-neutral and has bipartisan support.
- It addresses historical wrongs and ensures that survivors' stories are heard.
- If not passed this year, it may not be reconsidered for years.

**How You Can Help Today:**

We need urgent outreach to House leadership to bring this bill to a vote. We ask you to **contact members of the Native American Caucus and [the Republican co-sponsors of the House version of the Truth and Reconciliation Act](#) to urge them to call Leader Scalise and Speaker Johnson and tell them they want S.1723 to be put on suspension and passed.**

Alternatively, **call the offices of the following leaders** to explain the importance of this bill and urge them to pass S.1723 immediately:

- Speaker Mike Johnson, Louisiana 202-225-2777
- Majority Leader Steve Scalise, Louisiana 202-225-3015
- Republican Bill Lead Tom Cole, Oklahoma 580-357-2131
- Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, New York 202-225-5936

We need to pressure U.S. House leadership to make time for the Indian Boarding School bill, so the president can sign it into law. Now is the time to explain how important this bill is for Indian Country and request the House pass this bill.

**When talking to Congressional representatives, emphasize that:**

1. The bill is fully paid for and will cost nothing;
2. All of the conservatives in the Senate signed off with no objections; and
3. The language was amended to ensure the support of faith-based groups.

**Let's make history together—urge the House to pass S. 1723 today.**

Details on S. 1723 available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1723>.

Learn more about the movement for healing at [the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#).

Learn more about NARF's boarding school healing work at <https://narf.org/cases/boarding-school-healing/>.

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U.S. Cut the Surface of the Land in Nevada And What They Found Shocked the World
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[Jennifer Katenay](#)

Damn all for greed. Lithium isn't worth destroying the earth and destroying the water table in the area everything will be dead dead dead. Pray for Mother Earth.

