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Connecting People and Nature: the National Museum of Natural History Interior Department Approves \$1B to Clean up Abandoned Wells

Koi leaders last week announced a partnership with the Chickasaw Nation Rita Schmidt Sudman: co-author of "Water: More or Less"

Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery announces Teen Portrait Competition GrantStation

From the Northern Nevada International Center Would you take free land in rural America? Scholarships (G-H) with March 1-15 Deadlines Trump Improperly Removed Boxes of Documents from the White House On human libraries



"I want people to know where their food is coming from," says Imani Black, a graduate student at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, and founder of "Minorities in Aquaculture."

NMNH, Caroline J. Phillips Photography

Regional and personal stories deepening understanding of humans' role in nature, in an exhibition that highlights museum researchers through the places that inspire and drive their work. (July 2020)

#### **Interior Department Approves \$1B to Clean up Abandoned Wells**

By The Associated Press, 2/1/2022 - There are over 3 million abandoned oil and gas wells in the U.S., according to the Environmental Protection Agency. And Interior officials say that wells have been exposing millions of people to air and water pollution for decades.



A rendering of the proposed casino resort between Santa Rosa and Windsor. Koi Nation Sonoma

When the Koi Nation unveiled a plan to open \$600 million casino resort on the land of a former winery north of Santa Rosa last September, some locals held out hope that the tribe of just 90 members would lack the resources pull off the massive development. That wish now appears to be unlikely. Koi leaders last week announced a partnership with the Chickasaw Nation, a much larger tribe that owns 23 casinos in Oklahoma. "All recognized tribes have the right to be self-sufficient," a Chickasaw official said. Press Democrat

... **Rita Schmidt Sudman**, former executive director of the nonprofit Water Education Foundation, and the co-author of "Water: More or Less."

#### Q. What is one place everyone should visit in California?

**A.** The Yosemite Valley and nearby Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias are spectacular places that all Californians should experience. John Muir said, "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine into trees." All of California's national parks are a treasure, but to me Yosemite is the crown jewel. We forget that it was not easy politically to establish these parks. So let's experience them in their majesty.

#### What's the best book you've read or podcast you've listened to recently?

Joan Didion's awe for California water is featured in many of her books and personal observations. That connected with me as I began a career in water journalism. Her memories growing up near the Sacramento River often were full of dread. In the drought years, she listened to the clanging of her home's empty water pipes and kept watch on the vulnerable river

levees in the flood years. Her visit to the state and federal water operation was turned into her essay "Holy Water" from her book "The White Album." In it she writes about the delivery of vast quantities of water in eight days from Northern to Southern California through aqueducts, siphons and pumps. Watching technicians move the water, she said: "I wanted to be the one, that day, who was shining the olives, filling the gardens, and flooding the valleys like the Nile. I want it still."

### You're organizing a dinner party. Which three California figures, dead or alive, do you invite, and why? How would you get the conversation started?

The three dinner guests I chose are two from the past and one from the present. The common thread uniting them are their progressive populist and reform views and the fact that they faced powerful forces aligned against them. All three supported direct forms of democracy. In the time of the "robber barons," California Governor Hiram Johnson famously took on the Southern Pacific Railroad and other monopolies that controlled the state legislature. He supported election by direct popular vote — like support today by some for presidential elections. In 1911, California voters approved Johnson's constitutional process of initiative, referendum, and recall. Over the years this system greatly improved direct democracy in the state.

A generation after Johnson, San Francisco politician Pat Brown became governor in 1959 and is seen as the builder of modern California. He used his power to develop the state's masterplan for education, the massive State Water Project, major highway construction and civil rights legislation. Also, during his time in office, the Supreme Court declared a policy of "one man, one vote" mandating the state legislature be based on population not geography, thus throwing a monkey wrench into the current politics.

I think Kamala Harris would have lots of questions for these two. She would enjoy the old pols and maybe gain insight into how they took on the powerful interests of their day. Their progressive programs have parallels to current debates over voting rights, building infrastructure, and social programs. So my first question would be, "Do you have past experiences and insights for Vice President Harris on how to win when facing tough opponents?"

## Where do you see the most effective changes possible in ensuring that water equity in California — and much of the West, for that matter — can improve in the future?

Most immediate in California is our challenge to reduce underground pumping and bring our groundwater basins into balance so they can be used equitably by future generations. With snow in the Sierra, our major natural reservoir, estimated to be exhausted by 2046, our underground water is vital to the state's economic and environmental well-being. Underground aquifers provide about 40% of the water used by Californians. For years California property owners have largely pumped water below their land for "beneficial use" without state regulation, often creating a condition called overdraft, in which more water is pumped out of our basins each year than is put back. Finally in 2014, California became the last state to order groundwater management to halt declining levels. Extensive groundwater pumping, mainly by agriculture, has caused land to sink, putting infrastructure in some places at great risk of costly surface damage.

Farmers depend on groundwater as the surface water is cut off due to drought or environmental and regulatory conditions. Too much pumping causes water tables to drop. About 3,500 domestic wells have gone dry. Many of those wells are in poor rural communities in the Central Valley. Reducing water demand by fallowing some farmland is a hard but fair part of the solution. Plans are now being submitted to the state showing how each area will bring their basin into sustainable future use within the next two decades. Most of the submitted plans

depend on hopeful ways to increase supplies but fall short of plans to reduce irrigated farmland, a necessary part of the solution.

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery has announced its Teen Portrait Competition, which is open to students between the ages of 13 and 17 residing in the U.S and its territories. Teens are invited to submit original portraits in the medium of photography to this national competition hosted by the Portrait Gallery's Teen Museum Council. Artwork by the grand-prize winners for each of the two age groups (13–15 and 16–17 years old) will be displayed in the Portrait Gallery in the summer. The grand-prize winners' artworks will be on view near the special exhibition "The Outwin 2022: American Portraiture Today," which showcases portraits made by artists ages 18 and older. There is no fee to enter, and submissions are limited to one per person. Works must be submitted by March 29.

Winners will be selected by the National Portrait Gallery's Teen Museum Council, a group of 20 high school students from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia who create interactive programs and events inspired by the Portrait Gallery's collection to increase teen engagement with the museum. The winners, along with those awarded honorable mentions, will have their work featured on the Portrait Gallery's website.

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-portrait-gallery/2022/01/28/national-portrait-gallery-announces-triennial-teen-portrait-competition/?utm\_source=smithsoniandaily&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=20220131-daily-responsive&spMailingID=46330157&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=2180011167&spReportId=MjE4MDAxMTE2NwS2

#### **GRANTSTATION**

#### **National Funding**

#### **Challenge Supports Community Projects Nationwide**

#### **AARP Community Challenge**

The 2022 AARP Community Challenge grant program will support quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. Nonprofit organizations and government agencies may apply for grants for community-based projects to improve public spaces; housing; transportation; civic engagement; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and more. Priority will be given to projects that support residents age 50 or over, are inclusive, address disparities, and directly engage volunteers. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller short-term activities to tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. The application deadline is March 22, 2022. Visit the <u>AARP website</u> to find out more about the Community Challenge and to submit an online application.

#### **Community Mediation Efforts Funded**

#### JAMS Foundation/NAFCM Mini-Grant Program

The JAMS Foundation/NAFCM Mini-Grant Program supports the development of innovative and effective programs that can be replicated by community mediation centers nationwide and serve as a pathway to their sustainability and growth. The 2022 Mini-Grant Program will focus on organizations helping communities to assess and address a range of community conditions to assist them in developing and implementing new approaches to community safety. Proposed projects should expand how organizations currently serve communities (through mediation, restorative justice practices, conflict coaching, conflict management training, or dialogue

processes) by offering a new or enhanced process to help people, institutions, and the community as a whole on their path toward re-imaging community safety. Mini-Grants of \$15,000 for two years will be awarded to up to five organizations across the country. Nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and public agencies are eligible to apply. The deadline for Solicitation of Interest responses is March 7, 2022. Visit the JAMS Foundation website to access the 2022 Solicitation of Interest.

#### Grants Address Diabetes in the U.S. and Canada

#### **Sun Life Team Up Against Diabetes**

The Sun Life Team Up Against Diabetes grant program is dedicated to addressing the prevention of diabetes and its related complications. Grants are provided to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States and Canada that focus on the following areas: diabetes prevention, awareness, education, and care; diabetes management; recovery and support from diabetes-related complications; obesity prevention; and nutritional programs, including education, management, and awareness. Grants of \$25,000, \$50,000, or \$100,000 will be provided. The application deadline for 2022 is March 31. Online application information is available on the Sun Life website.

## Programs for Rural and Underserved LGBT Populations Supported Gamma Mu Foundation

The mission of the Gamma Mu Foundation is to make a positive difference in the lives of the LGBT community, primarily in rural and other underserved populations of the United States. The Foundation's vision is the creation of an environment that promotes health, acceptance, and pride in the LGBT community and a more accepting and inclusive environment for people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Grants are awarded in the following program areas: HIV/AIDS Services, Community Services, and Research and Public Education. The grant application deadline is March 31, 2022. Visit the Foundation's website to review the proposal guidelines and submit an online application.

#### **Regional Funding**

#### **Funds for Breast Cancer Education Efforts in Florida**

#### Florida Breast Cancer Foundation: Education Grants

The purpose of the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation is to improve the lives of those in Florida with breast cancer and give hope where there is none. The Foundation's Education Grants provide support for nonprofit organizations that help to educate women to be proactive advocates for their own breast health. The current focus is on grants of up to \$5,000 for projects in a single county and up to \$10,000 for projects in multiple counties that offer breast cancer education in one-on-one or small group settings, or through virtual technology, to reach as many people as possible. Applications must be submitted by March 11, 2022. Visit the Foundation's website to learn more about the 2022 priority areas for Education Grants and download the instructions and application form.

#### **Grants Promote Environmental Education for Oregon Youth**

**Gray Family Foundation: Environmental Education** 

The Gray Family Foundation believes that fostering an understanding and appreciation of our

natural world is a crucial part of a child's education. The Foundation's Environmental Education grant program supports nonprofit organizations and educational institutions in Oregon that promote the teaching of environmental education in K-12 environments and increase outdoor experiences for kindergarten through 8th grade youth. Grants are provided to organizations that promote outdoor, environmental, climate, and/or land-based education—either during the school day, as part of distance or virtual learning, or as an opportunity offered to families and youth outside of the context of the school setting. Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. The application deadlines for 2022 are March 11 and October 1. Visit the Foundation's website to review the 2022 Environmental Education request for proposals.

#### **Support for Health Initiatives in Louisiana**

#### **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation**

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation works to improve the health, education, and well-being of Louisianians. The Foundation currently offers the following grant opportunities: New Horizons Grants of up to \$25,000 support innovative approaches that either solve or more effectively address existing issues related to health and community well-being. Special Projects Grants of up to \$100,000 provide support to complete an existing project previously funded by the Foundation or to expand current efforts or implement new efforts based on clear evidence of need and solid data. Collective Impact Grants of up to \$1 million support community coalitions working together to address challenges around health and well-being, with emphasis on healthcare workforce development. The letter of intent deadlines for these three programs are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1, annually. Visit the Foundation's website to learn more about each grant opportunity.

#### **Programs to Serve New Mexico's Children Funded**

#### **New Mexico Children's Foundation**

New Mexico Children's Foundation provides funding to small, community-based nonprofit programs designed to foster the physical, emotional, educational, and social development of New Mexico children and their families. New Mexico continues to struggle with a significant rate of children growing up in poverty that face issues such as food insecurity, a lack of healthcare infrastructure, and education attainment in its communities. Recognizing that most children have a wide range of underserved needs, the Foundation's goal is to help organizations serve as many of those needs as possible. Grants of up to \$10,000 are provided to new or existing organizations with strong missions that seek funding to help support or expand their programs. General operating support is also considered. Operating budgets of applicant organizations must be under \$400,000. The upcoming application deadline is March 12, 2022. Grant application guidelines can be found by visiting <a href="https://www.nmchildren.org">www.nmchildren.org</a>.

#### **Federal Funding**

#### Funds Available to Help Families Impacted by Violence

#### **Department of Justice**

The Justice for Families Program seeks to improve the response of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or in cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse. This program supports the following activities for improving the capacity of courts and communities to respond to families affected by the targeted crimes: court-based and court-related programs, supervised visitation

and safe exchange by and between parents, training for people who work with families in the court system, civil legal services, and the provision of resources in juvenile court matters. Applications are due to grants.gov by March 7, 2022. The JustGrants deadline is March 10, 2022.

# **Program Provides COVID Relief to Agriculture and Food Workers Department of Agriculture**

The Farm and Food Worker Relief Grant Program provides support to deliver relief in the form of flat-rate payments to eligible farmworkers, meatpacking workers, and grocery store workers who incurred expenses preparing for, preventing exposure to, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This relief is intended to defray costs for reasonable and necessary personal, family, or living expenses such as, but not limited to, costs for personal protective equipment (PPE), expenses associated with quarantines and testing, and dependent care. The application deadline is March 10, 2022.



**Doodle 4 Google** 

Doodle 4 Google is a competition that invites K-12 students in the United States and its territories to use their artistic talents to think big and redesign the Google homepage logo for millions to see. Submissions will be divided into five grade groups for judging, and 54 State and Territory winners, five National Finalists, and one National Winner will be selected. Learn more about the competition guidelines and application process.



#### **Peaceful World Foundation**

The Peaceful World Foundation strives to build peace in the world one conversation at a time and to provide support for nonprofit organizations in their community peace building efforts in the field of the arts and mindful education. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area of California. <u>Learn more</u> about the funding guidelines and the application process.



#### Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects: Community Funding Program

The Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects aims to help build and enhance the technical and scientific capacity of Indigenous communities to address cumulative effects, based on the values of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities across Canada. The Community Funding Program supports community-led projects and baseline studies that help build and enhance the scientific and technical capacity of Indigenous communities for cumulative effects management, monitoring, and assessment in their territories. Learn more about the funding guidelines and application process.

#### **Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity**

The Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity, an initiative of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, aims to recognize people, groups of people, or organizations from all over the world whose contributions to mitigation and adaptation to climate change stand out for their novelty, innovation, and impact. Learn more about the Prize guidelines and nomination process.

#### From the Northern Nevada International Center

We are pleased to announce that we are planning for an in-person 2022 Youth Leadership Program with Algeria. To accommodate these students, we are now recruiting home hosts for the duration of their stay in Reno, from the evening of June 14 to the morning of June 26, 2022.\* All the participants are selected for their leadership skills and commitment to improving their communities, speak fluent English, and are between 15 and 17 years old.

Participants will be in program activities all day, and many of their meals are provided, so it is convenient to host even if you work a full-time job. Home hosting is also an excellent way to bring the world into your home and we hold a number cultural events with participants and other hosts.

If you are interested in hosting a participant of AYLP or any other NNIC program, email Olivia Bailey: obailey@nnic.org for more information or complete the home host application below.

#### **Home Host Application**

\*In-person exchange on the dates noted above is contingent upon the stabilization of the pandemic, the easing of travel restrictions and the safety of travel. In the case that travel is not possible on these dates, the program may be held at later dates or virtually.

We are hopeful that we will be able to resume in-person programming for ALL of our 2022 international visitor programs!

The safety of home hosts, our Reno community, and visitors remains our first priority and we will be following all current CDC and U.S. Department of State COVID guidelines.

We would like take this opportunity to learn about your level of comfort hosting international visitors during 2022. If you were a past home host, or are interested in being a future home host, would you please complete the brief survey linked below about your comfort level with visitor dinner hosting and/or overnight hosting?

In this survey, you will have the opportunity to share your comfort level and anything that would help you feel safe if you were to open your home. We highly value your time and opinion, and will use your answers to inform how we proceed with programs and hosting this year. Your answers on this survey will only be used to gather data and will not be taken as intention to host, nor will you be excluded from hosting opportunities as a result of your answers.

#### Home Host Safety Survey

Thank you in advance for your time, and if you have questions regarding NNIC's home hosting, please contact Olivia Bailey obailey@nnic.org.

### Would you take free land in rural America?

In the midst of a national housing shortage, towns on the Kansas plains are giving away free land and ultra-cheap houses. Is the offer worth it?

https://thehustle.co/would-you-take-free-land-in-rural-america/?utm\_source=pocket-newtab

### Scholarships (G-H) with March 1-15 Deadlines

GeoKids LINKS Graduate Fellowship in Biology	\$18,000	03/01/2022
George and Lynna Gene Cook Scholarship	\$800	03/15/2022
Gladys D. Goodson Scholarship	\$2,500	03/15/2022
Glenn Miller Birthplace Society Scholarship Program	\$3,000	03/01/2022
GLHF Education Scholarship	\$3,000	03/01/2022
Golden LEAF Scholarship Program	\$12,000	03/01/2022
GRCF Altrusa International of Grand Rapids Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids Minority Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF ATHENA Eileen DeVries Scholarship	\$1,000	03/01/2022
GRCF Donald J. DeYoung Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Donald M. Wells Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Dorothy J. Thurston Graduate Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Dr. William E. and Norma Sprague Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Grand Rapids Combined Theatre Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Guy D. & Mary Edith Halladay Graduate Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Harry J. Morris, Jr. Emergency Services Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF John T. and Frances J. Maghielse Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Joshua Esch Mitchell Aviation Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Ladies Literary Club Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Lavina Laible Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Llewellyn L. Cayvan String Instrument Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022

GRCF Mathilda & Carolyn Gallmeyer Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Melbourne & Alice E. Frontjes Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Mildred E. Troske Music Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Miller Johnson West Michigan Diversity Law School Scholarship	\$5,000	03/01/2022
GRCF U-M Alumnae Club (University of Michigan) Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Violet Wondergem Health Science Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Virginia Valk Fehsenfeld Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
GRCF Warner Norcross & Judd Law School Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
Greater St. Louis Art Association Scholarship	\$2,500	03/15/2022
Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship	\$1,000	03/02/2022
Harvest Land Scholarship Program	\$1,000	03/01/2022
Haymarket Gallery Emerging Artists Scholarship	\$700	03/15/2022
Heidelberg University Music Scholarship	Varies	03/01/2022
HEK Youth Encouragment Scholarship	\$1,250	03/09/2022
Herb it Forward Scholarship	\$5,000	03/01/2022
Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student Award	\$11,500	03/15/2022
Howard and Helen Hauff Memorial	Varies	03/01/2022
Howard P. Rawlings Educational Assistance Grant	\$3,000	03/01/2022
Hubler Endowed Scholarship	\$10,000	03/15/2022
Hudson & Holland Scholars Program	\$6,000	03/01/2022

### Trump improperly removed boxes of records from White House, according to people familiar with National Archives visit to Mar-a-Lago

The recovery of multiple boxes from Donald Trump's Florida resort last month underscores the previous administration's cavalier handling of presidential records. The items included correspondence with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, which Trump once described as "love letters," as well as a letter left by President Barack Obama for his successor. The Archives has struggled to cope with Trump, who flouted document retention requirements and frequently ripped up official documents, leaving hundreds of pages taped back together — or some that arrived still in pieces. **Read more** 

The above is well known in archives circles. Please, please (note plea) if your tribe has completed any important agreement, work, etc during the last administration, please (again) make sure that your archives are intact. Proof and paper are what work in courts. History is littered with examples of tribes loosing property, rights and credibility because of no paper. sdc

What an astonishing thing a book is. It's a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles. But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person, maybe somebody dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, an author is speaking clearly and silently inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic. ~ Carl Sagan

#### t897M0molnmtsragy 2dhg1 ·

In Denmark, there are libraries where you can "borrow" a person instead of a book to listen to their life story for 30 minutes. The goal is to fight prejudice. Each person has a title like: "unemployed", "refugee", "bipolar", but listening to their story you realize how much you shouldn't "judge a book by its cover", An innovative and brilliant, active project that exists in fifty countries. An initiative from The Human Library.

