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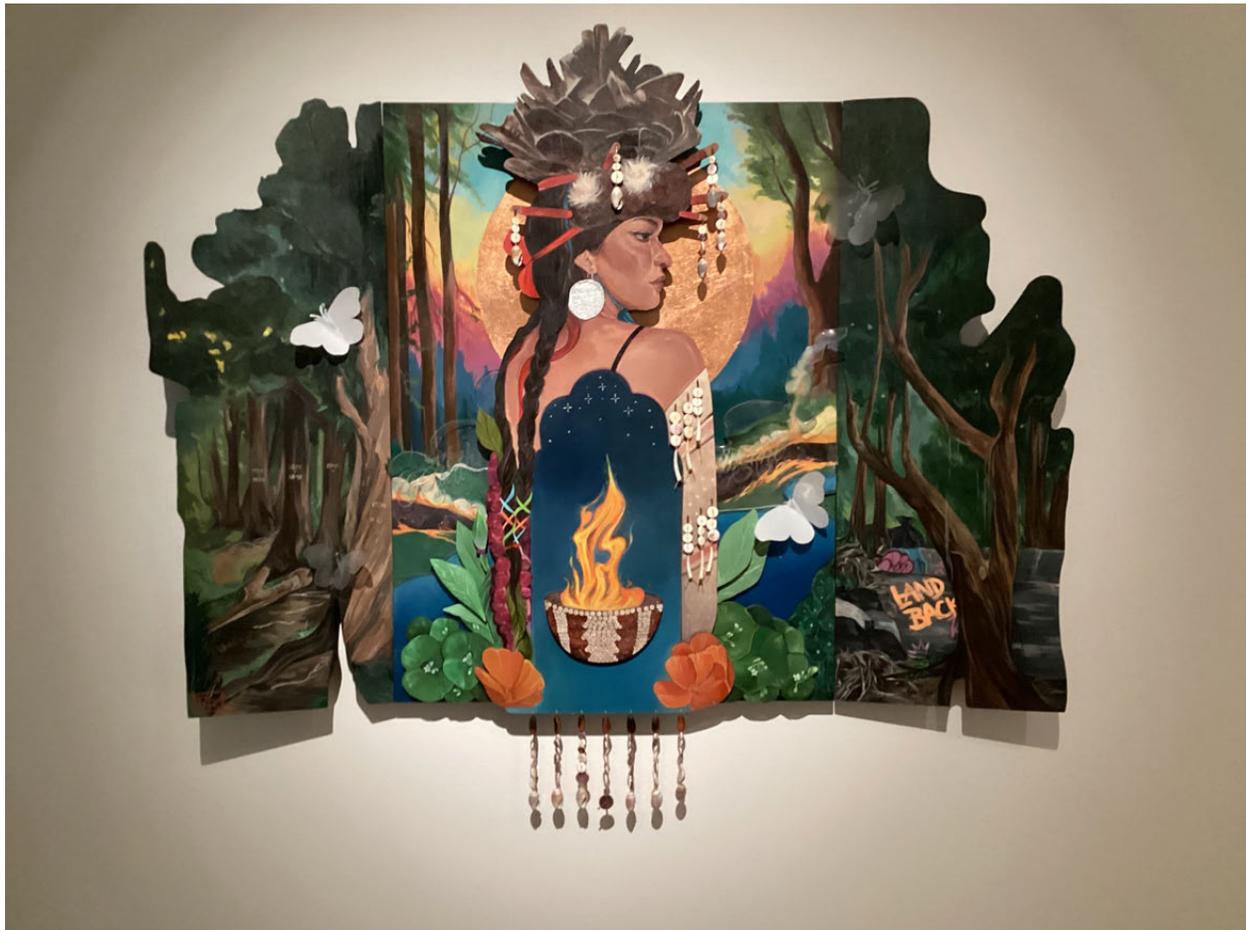
Grandpa's Visitor

Oh the irony - Ecovercity

Controversial Beargrease sponsor bows out

San Diego Foundation Scholarships

Scholarships with February 16-23 Deadlines



From the Indigenous Fire Exhibit at the Oakland Museum

Sacred land returned to North Carolina Cherokee Indians after 200 years

The Franklin Town Council on Monday voted unanimously to transfer the deed to the Noquisiyi Mound to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina.

Read in The Washington Post: <https://apple.news/AZ5mBy-kZQBjG1WIKiyfJw>

[A town in North Carolina is returning land to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians](#)

Explore local parks and learn new skills by participating in the city of Reno's **Junior Ranger Program**. Pick up a free Junior Ranger Guide at any city of Reno recreation facility, or access it [online](#). The guide encourages participants to collect stickers by completing activities hosted by the park rangers. Once they complete six activities and collect six stickers, they will be invited to a Reno Recreation and Parks Commission meeting for a swearing-in ceremony, where they will be given an official Junior Ranger badge. The program offers activities twice a month at different parks, rotating among **Idlewild Park, Huffaker Park, Mayors Park, Mira Loma Park, Paradise Park** and **Valley Wood Park**. The first Junior Ranger activity of the year, "**Birding Bonanza**," starts at **8 a.m.** (weather permitting), on **Friday, Jan. 9**, at **Idlewild Park, 1900 Idlewild Park**. Learn more at www.reno.gov/government/departments/parks-and-recreation/park-activities or www.facebook.com/cityofreno

How 30 tribes became the most powerful voice on the river

Rusty Childress writes, "In 1922, a small group of leaders divided the Colorado River behind closed doors. They ignored the Tribal Nations who lived near the water for centuries. They also ignored how the river actually worked. They looked at a few wet years and guessed there would always be plenty of water. They were wrong. For a long time, big dams hid those mistakes. But today, the water is running out. The seven states that use the river face a major federal deadline of Feb. 14. If they cannot agree on a new plan, the government may take control. The old days of using "paper water" that does not exist are over. Everyone must face the reality of a dry river. This is where tribal power changes the game. ..." [Read more from the Fountain Hills Times](#).

EPA proposed rule could risk polluting 80% of U.S. wetlands. Tribes are worried

"Monday is the deadline for the public to weigh in on a potential rule change by the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that could impact which water bodies may be protected from pollution. Tribes are among key stakeholders seeking an extension to comment. WOTUS — or the waters of the United States — is a definition guiding which resources fall under the Clean Water Act, a federal law governing the discharge of pollutants into waterways like rivers, lakes and streams. But as currently written, the proposed EPA rule would narrow the 1972 landmark law's enforcement with estimates suggesting that 80% of the nation's wetlands could be at risk. While wetlands make up less than 1% of the Grand Canyon State's landscape, this fragile ecosystem covers more than 116 million acres nationwide. ..." [Read more from KJZZ](#).

Water Masters' documentary highlights local water issues

“Water is precious in Nevada, now more than ever. As population growth and industrial needs increase the demand for water, researchers at the College of Engineering’s Nevada Center for Water Resiliency (NCWR) seek solutions. The issues are highlighted in a new 30-minute documentary, “Water Masters,” which premiered in December at the University of Nevada, Reno. Produced by Emmy-winning director Dan Druhora, “Water Masters” explores water use along the Truckee River Watershed, the water system connecting Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. The film examines the concept of upstream and downstream users, highlighting how population growth and the expansion of industry — such as new data centers that require water for cooling — increase water needs. ...” [Read more from the Tahoe Daily Tribune.](#)

Deadlocked Colorado River negotiators to meet, ‘sequestered’



“Top water officials from the seven Colorado River Basin states will return to the negotiating table next week, reportedly in sequestered fashion, to try to make headway over how to cut water use. Starting Monday, the negotiators will meet for four days in Salt Lake City, sources said, and two people familiar with the long-stalled talks say attendance will be sharply or at least unusually limited. Federal officials are convening the seven-state meeting after a missed deadline in November in the long stalemate over how to deal with the oversubscribed, dwindling river. The U.S. Interior Department, which typically runs the negotiating sessions, has told the states it wants an agreement among them by Feb. 14. If that doesn’t happen, Reclamation Commissioner Scott Cameron has said he’ll consider imposing a solution on the states. ...” [Read more from the Arizona Daily Star.](#)

Commentary: Overuse of Colorado River threatens \$3.8T economy, numerous jobs

Andrea Helart, Angie Anderson, Becky Fawson, Bo Hellams, Cheri Ryan, Chris Romer and Danny Seiden write, “Our nation has reached a critical inflection point. We can no longer ignore the alarming reality that we are using more water than the Colorado River reliably provides. Major reservoirs such as Lake Mead and Lake Powell sit at roughly one-third full and under historic stress. ... As business leaders from Arizona and Colorado, we represent hundreds of companies and thousands of jobs that rely on a stable and well-managed Colorado River. We recognize the monumental challenge of updating the rules that govern how this water is allocated and delivered to farms, businesses, and communities across seven states and Mexico. From a

business perspective, the implications couldn't be more acute. Water supply uncertainty threatens agriculture, manufacturing, power generation, municipal planning, and recreation economies. Investors require reliable resource baselines to commit, expand, and add jobs. When the risk of systemic failure hovers, projects get deferred, jobs aren't created, and economies falter. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Central.](#)

Colorado River Basin needs included in FY 2026 appropriations

“On Monday, congressional appropriators released a finalized package of Fiscal Year 2026 spending bills covering Energy and Water Development, Interior and Environment, and Commerce, Justice, and Science. The legislation provides full-year funding for a wide range of federal agencies involved in water management, wildfire response, weather forecasting, and Tribal programs across the western United States. For the seven Colorado River Basin states, the appropriations package focuses on long-standing challenges that continue to shape regional policy, including persistent drought, aging water infrastructure, wildfire risk, and the federal government's trust obligations to Tribal nations. ... ” [Continue reading from Western Water.](#)

Why the Las Vegas water supply might be more secure than you think

“The methods aren't always popular for locals — forthcoming bans on nonfunctional turf, pool size restrictions, etc. — but the water saving outcomes are meant to ensure Southern Nevadans have enough water in the decades to come. That's because [future decline](#) is all but guaranteed here at Lake Mead. “The lake is going to continue to go down with the usage of the water. It just is what it is,” Noah Sanford, owner of Las Vegas Sportfishing, told Channel 13. “Most people don't realize is that even though the lake is down a little over 170 feet vertically, if we drive out not even a half mile that way, the water is still well over 300 feet deep. In some parts almost 400 feet deep,” Sanford said. ... ” [Continue reading from Channel 13.](#)

Step inside the lost Native American city that rivalled medieval London

Archaeology reveals that a millennium ago, North America was home to thriving urban centres as large and sophisticated as those of medieval Europe. But how and why did these rise, flourish and decline?

[This Tribal News Agency Shows How to Defend a Free Press at the Grassroots](#)

As Trump erodes press freedoms, the resurgence of Mvskoke Media offers lessons on how to protect independent media.

DAN ROSS | TRUTHOUT

(Repeat) PBS Reno Writers Contest call for 2026 entries

PBS Reno is kicking off its 2026 Writers Contest, inviting kindergarten through third-grade students across northern and central Nevada to submit original illustrated stories. Based in Reno and backed by the Rotary Club of Reno, the contest offers publication, on-air recognition, and certificates for all participants, aiming to boost kids' creativity and literacy skills.

California Native Entities and Bigfoot Stories-Non-research
opSrentosd29u0al96l7h1mnf203llJ if49ga2rh4h535tt88 9,t1ga87y ·
Story #509 - Anonymous

GRANDPA'S VISITOR

My grandpa was a medicine man who lived in his little room in the back of my uncle's mobile home. He was quiet and use to sit out on the porch singing and watching the mountains. The whole family said he was senile and had dementia.

I didn't believe them though. Grandpa didn't talk much but always gave us something he'd made like a little arrowhead, hollow stick he whittled, or teach us a song he'd made up in the old language. I still remember a few of these little songs. Back in his day, he was a soldier in WWII, survivor of boarding school brutality, and learned the old medicine ways. He also talked to the Bigfoot, birds and animals. My uncle told us, after Grandpa passed away, there was a Bigfoot that use to come down out of the mountains and talked to Grandpa outside his window.

Grandpa had a stroke but could still get around. Uncle said one night he heard Grandpa walking around in his room. Then he was really talking a lot to somebody in his language. Uncle heard a voice answer him word for word. A strong stench would be outside and the dogs wouldn't bark. The next morning, Grandpa put some kind of herbs in his coffee and drank it up. When he asked him what that was, all Grandpa said was it was medicine herbs a friend brought to him. Uncle thinks it helped Grandpa's arthritis because he went outside and cut a little wood. I think whatever the Bigfoot gave Grandpa made him live longer. He never complained or had diabetes like the rest of his siblings did.

Grandpa use to conduct sweats but stopped because he said some people were bringing bad in. I later learned what he meant. Some were coming to sweat then going back to their old ways. They didn't want to give things up to live better lives. Some guys would sweat a few rounds then leave to go meet up with a girlfriend while their wife and kids were home. Grandpa didn't like that. He spent more time in or near the mountains. One time he drug his chair out there somewhere and sat all day. Uncle didn't want to say that Grandpa was visiting with Bigfoot but I'm kind of proud that he did that. I wish he lived a bit longer so I could've asked him about his experiences. Whatever Grandpa knew, he took with him.

When the family got together to burn Grandpa's belongings, which wasn't much, I know the Bigfoot were out in the mountains watching because I felt it. I bet they even sang that night because I heard faint voices coming from out back where Grandpa's window was. I think they missed him as much as we did and sent his spirit on his journey. I kept all this to myself but that's what I believe. Somewhere in the spirit world, I know Grandpa believes it too.

Oh the irony!

More people than ever are waking up to the fact that the old way of living isn't working, and they're looking for something real to build instead...

So we've gathered globally respected permaculture experts and regenerative leaders for a FREE, live 3-day online summit...

Designed to show you how a different way of living is possible, and how to start building it at with practical steps you can actually take in 2026.

MEET THE PEOPLE BUILDING THE FUTURE

Why This Summit Exists *Something feels different right now.*

Many people are realizing that the old paths, how we work, how we live, how we care for ourselves, how we relate to the Earth, don't quite make sense anymore.

For some, it shows up as anxiety about the future.

For others, it's a quiet feeling of *"there has to be a better way than this."*

This summit is for anyone who's felt that question underneath it all and wondered:

Is there knowledge we were never taught — but actually need now?

We believe there is. It's practical, grounded, and built for real life: how to work with land, design resilient systems, and take meaningful steps toward a future you actually want to live in.

This summit is your invitation to learn from people doing that work every day.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN - Skills for Real Life

Grow Food Anywhere

Learn how to grow abundant food in any setting, from balconies and patios to backyards and shared spaces.

Build Regenerative Livelihoods

Learn how to create livelihoods and businesses that support your needs while contributing to a healthier planet.

Live in Tune with Nature

Learn practical ways to align your daily life with natural cycles for greater balance, resilience, and clarity.

Design Systems That Give Back

Learn how to design systems that return time, energy, and meaning—so your life feels more supported, not more complex.

*You don't need land. You don't need experience. You don't need a plan (yet).
You just need curiosity and a willingness to see what's possible.*

WHO THIS IS FOR - This Summit is for You if: Something feels "off" about the way the world works, and you want to respond constructively.

- You want practical skills, not abstract theory,
- You're curious about homesteading, regeneration, or nature-based living,
- You care about health, community, and the future of the planet, or
- You want to feel more capable in an uncertain world.

Whether you rent, own land, live in a city, or dream of something different — this knowledge meets you where you are.

FOR PARENTS, FAMILIES & THE NEXT GENERATION

Planting Seeds for the Future



Many people come to this work not because they want to “change the world”, but because they’re thinking about their children. They’re asking questions like:

- *What skills will my kids actually need in the world they’re inheriting?*
- *How do I raise resilient humans, not anxious ones?*
- *What does it look like to model a life that’s grounded, capable, and connected to nature?*

Many Ecoversity students are parents—or future parents—who want to pass on not just information, but confidence, capability, and care for the world their children will inherit.

WHAT MAKES THIS DIFFERENT - Ancient Wisdom Applied to Modern Life

A Global Learning Community

Join a worldwide network of 15,500+ students across 50 countries learning and applying regenerative design.

Access That Opens Doors

Over \$430,000 in scholarships granted to support learners from diverse backgrounds and communities.

Real-World Impact

Graduates go on to launch careers, regenerate land, and build resilient communities around the world.

Taught by Experts

Learn directly from instructors with decades of hands-on experience, not just theory or trends.

Much of this wisdom comes from a design system called permaculture, but you don't need to know the word to benefit from the knowledge.



Controversial Beargrease sponsor bows out

The main sponsor of the annual sled dog race named for an Ojibwe mail carrier was going to be NewRange Copper Nickel.



Colleen Wallin's sled dog team makes its way through the first leg of the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon in Two Harbors, Minn., in March . This year's race begins on Jan. 25.

By JANA HOLLINGSWORTH The Minnesota Star Tribune

DULUTH – A controversial new sponsor of northeastern Minnesota’s Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, a 300-mile endurance test along the North Shore, has pulled out after the race organization’s decision to end the partnership.

Race officials announced NewRange Copper Nickel as a sponsor at the end of December, igniting outrage from some environmentalists and members of Native American tribes.

The company is seeking to mine copper and other minerals from an open pit near Babbitt called

North- Met, a project first proposed two decades ago by PolyMet.

Opponents have long fought that project and other hard-rock mining proposals for their potential threats to lakes, rivers and wild rice through water discharge contamination. It's a type of mining that hasn't been done in Minnesota.

In a statement Jan. 8, the company's head of external affairs, Colin Marsh, said NewRange respects the Beargrease organization's decision.

"NewRange remains committed to engaging respectfully with Tribal Nations and local communities and supporting the region in other ways," he said. "We hope for good weather, great snow, and big attendance to make this year's race a huge success."

A spokeswoman for the race directed questions to Board President Mike Keyport, who did not return repeated calls.

The Beargrease race, which begins Jan. 25, is named for the son of an Ojibwe chief who in the late 1800s delivered mail in winter by sled dog, traveling between Two Harbors and Grand Marais. The race has long collaborated with the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and finishes on its reservation.

The sponsorship was "a double slap in the face to our homelands, wild rice waters and seven generations," Rep. Liish Kozlowski, DFL- Duluth, wrote on social media last week.

Kozlowski, who is Ojibwe, said they were disappointed to "see the pride of our Grand Portage rez and ancestors be used as propaganda for copper nickel mining."

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has been one of the most ardent critics and legal opponents of copper-nickel mines and potential downstream effects on water quality.

The race's initial announcement of the sponsorship on social media said that NewRange understands the balance between preserving the wilderness of northern Minnesota and strengthening the regional economy.

The company's "commitment to responsible resource development helps support both the Northland's environment and the local traditions rooted in it," the announcement said.

Silver Bay resident Roxanne Lillis is a former owner of Skyport Lodge, a regular checkpoint along the race.

She understands operation of the Beargrease is an expensive endeavor, she said, but its reputation is one of respect for the land it runs through.

She couldn't support the race taking money from a company "who I think is going to harm our environment," she said. "I think our water is more important than any mineral they can take out of the land."

NewRange would mine the openpit NorthMet, with ore processed in a former LTV Steel site in Hoyt Lakes.

The company continues to seek key approvals for the mine that has been mired in studies and legal action for years.

PolyMet was a subsidiary of the Swiss conglomerate Glencore, and NewRange is a partnership that includes Glencore and Teck Resources, a Canadian company that has been exploring a deposit near NorthMet. In 2022, Glencore pleaded guilty in New York to a bribery and corruption case and agreed to pay \$1.1 billion in fines. Charges included a global chain of bribes and a scheme to manipulate oil prices at two U.S. ports. NewRange formed in 2023.

Copper and nickel are critical minerals for electric vehicles and electricity, and NorthMet, if approved, is estimated to produce 32,000 tons of mostly copper daily.

The Beargrease is the longest sled dog race of its kind in the Lower 48 states and serves as a qualifier for Alaska's Iditarod. It has \$25,000 to disburse to racers this year.

Chloe Johnson of the Minnesota Star Tribune contributed to this story. janah@startribune.com

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**SAN DIEGO FOUNDATION Scholarships** <https://www.californiaindianeducation.org/#pins>

In just one application, our Common Scholarship Application provides students access to more than 150 scholarship opportunities with awards ranging from \$1,000 to more than \$5,000.

In 2025, San Diego Foundation awarded a record-breaking \$5.5 million in scholarships to nearly 1,400 students.

**Who Can Apply? Our scholarships are open to a wide range of candidates, including:**

- Graduating high school seniors
- Current undergraduate or graduate students
- Adult re-entry students
- Career/technical school students
- Students with financial need (including middle-income families)

**How to Apply: Access the Common Scholarship Application** at [www.sdfoundation.org/students/common-scholarship-application/](http://www.sdfoundation.org/students/common-scholarship-application/)

**The deadline to apply is Wednesday, March 4 at 2:00 p.m. PST.**

## Scholarships with February 16-23 Deadlines

|                                                                                           |           |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation Scholarship</u></a>            | \$25,000  | February 16, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>Jeannette Rankin National Scholar Grant</u></a>                            | \$500     | February 16, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>Tailhook Educational Foundation (TEF) Scholarships</u></a>                 | \$20,000  | February 16, 2026 |
|                                                                                           |           |                   |
| <a href="#"><u>Anne Moncrief Layman Nursing Scholarship</u></a>                           | \$2,000   | February 17, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>Cardinal Newman Society Essay Contest</u></a>                              | \$20,000  | February 17, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>John Randolph Foundation Scholarships</u></a>                              | \$10,000  | February 17, 2026 |
|                                                                                           |           |                   |
| <a href="#"><u>BBB Thomas J. Klinedinst, JR Scholarship</u></a>                           | \$5,000   | February 18, 2026 |
|                                                                                           |           |                   |
| <a href="#"><u>Call to Action Scholarship Program</u></a>                                 | \$100,000 | February 20, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>Community Foundation for Southern Arizona General Scholarship</u></a>      | Varies    | February 20, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>Fort Worth Scottish Rite Foundation Scholarship</u></a>                    | \$2,500   | February 20, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>GSLMTC Mary Joan Wolf Memorial Scholarship</u></a>                         | \$1,000   | February 20, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>Gucci Changemakers Scholarship</u></a>                                     | \$25,000  | February 20, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>Vegetarian Resource Group College Scholarship</u></a>                      | \$10,000  | February 20, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>VPC Community Involvement and Kathleen Eovino Memorial Scholarship</u></a> | \$2,000   | February 20, 2026 |
|                                                                                           |           |                   |
| <a href="#"><u>Beth Carew Memorial Scholarship</u></a>                                    | \$6,000   | February 21, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>Claire M. LaPlante Engineering Scholarship</u></a>                         | \$50,000  | February 21, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>Goodyear STEM Career Day Scholarships</u></a>                              | \$2,500   | February 21, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>Grattan and Stephen T. Gray Scholarship</u></a>                            | Varies    | February 21, 2026 |
|                                                                                           |           |                   |
| <a href="#"><u>J &amp; J Trujillo Memorial Scholarship</u></a>                            | \$12,500  | February 23, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>ASOR Harris Excavation Grant</u></a>                                       | \$5,000   | February 23, 2026 |
|                                                                                           |           |                   |
| <a href="#"><u>Gertrude M. Cox Scholarship</u></a>                                        | \$1,000   | February 23, 2026 |
| <a href="#"><u>NMF General Scholarships</u></a>                                           | Varies    | February 23, 2026 |