

# **Journal #2704                  from sdc                  10.19.12**

*Vice-President and Biden and the PLHS team*

*Arctic ice melted to a new record low this summer*

*Interior Designates 27 New National Landmarks Honoring Nation's Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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*Generations unite at Elko Pow-Wow*

## **Carolyn Harry**

:) Way Cool! Sam did a "cool" handshake with Vice-President Biden..then..the Lakers got to go and get a private picture with him and Vice-President Biden remembered Sam from the first handshake..and gave him the cool handshake again, and said.."your the man in charge aren't you?" He wished good luck to the football team and more!! So exciting!!  
What a great Government Class today for PLHS!

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## **Christina Thomas in Barbados for Miss Humanity International**

By ICTMN Staff October 17, 2012

*The eagle has landed. Christina Thomas, Northern Paiute, is currently in Barbados for the run-up to the Miss Humanity International pageant, in which she is representing the United States. (See our previous coverage: "[Christina Thomas, Northern Paiute, to Represent U.S. in Miss Humanity International.](#)") With the fun just about to start, she responded to some questions from ICTMN.*

### **What is your history with pageants or competitions like this?**

This is my first non-Native pageant. In 2009 I ran for Miss Indian World. I set a new record for ticket sales and earned myself a cruise to the Bahamas. In 2010 I ran for Miss Indian Nations where I was 1st Runner-Up and Tribal Chairman's Choice for Miss Indian Nations.

### **What drew you to this competition?**

Someone sent me the link last year and told me I should run. I checked it out and saw it was a week away. So this past November-December when they were advertising for delegate applications I was curious so I sent them an email. Before I was even given the application I had to answer a few questions to decide if I was an applicable delegate. I wanted to participate in this pageant because it focuses on young ladies making a difference in their communities and countries because they are actually passionate about what they do, not because they have a title that makes them do charitable work.

### **Make your case for yourself — what are your humanitarian accomplishments that you feel ought to impress the judges?**

I think I definitely walk the talk. My passion for the revitalization of not only my language, but native and indigenous languages and maintaining our identity as Native people is something that I do, not just say. I practice what I preach. From not only being the youngest teacher of my language, to dancing in our traditional dance group, singing old songs of my people. I try to

encourage our youth in all aspects of keeping our tradition strong. Without sounding conceited I think my resume alone will be impressive, but what people are always impressed by is that I have sung for Vice President Biden and Michelle Obama on two different occasions. Also that I have attended the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education in Peru representing the USA, and that I met with Nevada's Senator Harry Reid, Congressman Dean Heller and Shelley Berkley in Washington D.C. discussing issues affecting Native Nevadans. Another aspect that I think will show that I really am about giving back is my involvement in numerous non-Native organizations as well.

**What are you looking forward to doing or seeing in Barbados?**

I absolutely love traveling! I like meeting new people and learning about the indigenous people in those communities. I look forward to learning more about the culture, history, and trying local food. We get to see the island during the week in different activities. I'm really looking forward to the submarine ride we get to take. The Caribbean is known for the lemon shark, so I hope to see a lot when we go underwater — I'm a huge shark freak. And of course meeting the other delegates. It's very powerful to meet other inspiring young ladies who want to make a difference in the world.

**By putting yourself out there in this way, with this kind of pageant, you're setting yourself up to be a role model for young Native girls. What message do you have for them?**

Inspiring the youth throughout Indian Country has been the best part of my journey thus far! I have conversations with young girls I work with in my communities and reservations, and for them to tell me that want to be like me or look up to me is truly humbling. I tell them to strive beyond what I have accomplished, dream bigger. I would tell them to always listen to their hearts and don't be afraid to follow your dreams. You don't want to look back and have regrets and "what-ifs". Don't think that because you are Native or live on a reservation that it will hold you back. Use your experiences in life and use those to your full advantage. I have experienced and seen drugs and alcohol, abuse, teen pregnancy, drop outs, gangs, and suicide affecting me or people I know. We see all these negative statistics, far too often, about life on reservations — but don't take that to mean you are destined to become a part of that number.

**What sort of support have you received from the Native community — and have you received support from outside the Native community? After all, you are representing not just your people but also the United States as a whole.**

By far Indian country has been the most supportive of me. Of course my tribe and local surrounding tribes have been very supportive — donating money for my trip, sending out emails to vote, posting flyers, et cetera. But other tribes, Native organizations, and communities other than my own have been very supportive as well, whether it's been mailing me gifts, posting supportive messages on Facebook, sharing the links, and voting as well. Outside of Indian country, locally, it took them a while to get on the "Christina Train". I was featured on News Channel 2, in the *Reno Gazette Journal* twice, on a local [television](#) show, on a radio morning show, and on four talk shows. They were supportive in getting the word out but most of my donations and gifts came from the native and other indigenous communities across the world! I'm very blessed by all my family, friends, fans, and supporters!

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Last night at the presidential debate, the moderator did not allow an undecided voter with concerns about climate change to ask a question--despite it being central to the debate on which energy sources the candidates support and an important issue to undecided voters.

New satellite data just revealed that polar bears' **Arctic ice melted to a new record low this summer**--retreating from areas at the edge of the Arctic Ocean where polar bears most need the ice to hunt for seals--and leaving many of the bears desperate for food.

We must get climate change in the spotlight for voters before Election Day.

**Speak up today to help more voters hear the presidential candidates' positions on climate change before Nov. 6th.**

Every summer, a portion of Arctic ice melts and then forms again in the fall, but the ice is melting earlier and further now than any other time on record. In fact, the area of Arctic ice that melted this summer was an incredible 49% above the average from 1979 to 2000. The additional **ice that melted is an area nearly double the size of Alaska**.

We have an opportunity in these next few days to get climate change back in the national spotlight by urging Bob Schieffer, the moderator of the final presidential debate on foreign policy, to ask the candidates their positions on addressing climate change--an issue of international importance.

**Wild polar bears cannot survive without ice in the Arctic. Make climate change an issue in this year's elections--urge the moderator of the next debate to ask a question on climate change.**

In 2009--when strong legislation to fight climate change passed the U.S. House and had the backing of President Obama--the only thing stopping us were a few pro-Big Polluter members of the U.S. Senate. Making climate change a part of this year's election issues is critical to being able to address global warming over these next four years.

Polls are showing that undecided voters--who the candidates want to sway--care deeply about climate change. Make sure climate change is once again in the national spotlight, so that voters can know the candidates' plans to fight climate change before they cast their ballot.

**Be a voice for polar bears--help shine the spotlight on climate change during the final presidential debate.**

Thanks for all you do to protect wildlife.

Sincerely, Sue Brown, Executive Director, NWF Action Fund

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**Interior Designates 27 New National Landmarks Landmarks Honor Nation's Cultural and Natural Heritage**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today announced the designation of 26 national historic landmarks and one national natural landmark as places that possess exceptional value and quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Currently there are only 2,527 designated national historic landmarks and 592 national natural landmark sites across the country that bear this national distinction.

“Each of these landmarks represents a thread in the great tapestry that tells the story of our beautiful land, our diverse culture and our nation’s rich heritage,” said Salazar. “By designating these sites as national landmarks, we help meet the goals of President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative to establish a conservation ethic for the 21st century and reconnect people, especially young people, to our nation’s historic, cultural, and natural heritage.”

The national historic landmarks announced today include:

- **Admiral David Glasgow Farragut Gravesite, New York City, N.Y.** The Admiral David Glasgow Farragut Gravesite is the only known, NHL-eligible property directly associated with Farragut, the son of Jorge Antonio Farragut-Mesquida, a Spaniard from the island of Minorca. Admiral Farragut is universally recognized as one of the most accomplished officers in American naval history, as well as one of the finest naval commanders who fought for either side during the Civil War.
- **Black Jack Battlefield, Douglas County, Kan.** The three-hour Battle of Black Jack, fought on June 2, 1856, marked a culmination of escalating violence in “Bleeding Kansas” and the beginning of John Brown’s war on slavery, which would culminate in his raid on Harpers Ferry three years later.
- **Camp Evans, Wall Township, N.J.** This World War II-era U.S. Army Signal Corps electronics development, testing, and production facility was one of the principal U.S. sites associated with the development of radar.
- **Central Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers/Dayton Veterans Administration Home, Dayton, Ohio.** The home represents an evolution and shift in federal care for veterans starting in World War I (1917) and continuing through the consolidation of veteran’s benefits and the establishment of the Veterans Administration in 1930.
- **Central Congregational Church, Boston, Mass.** Central Congregational Church is nationally significant because it has the largest intact Tiffany-designed ecclesiastical interior in its original location in America.
- **César E. Chávez National Monument at Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz in Keene, Calif.** La Paz became headquarters to the United Farm Workers of America in the early 1970s when Chávez and other leaders of the UFW orchestrated unprecedented successes for hundreds of thousands of farm workers, including passage of the first U.S. law that recognized farm workers’ collective bargaining rights. On October 8, 2012, President

Obama declared the site a national monument. In addition to that action, today the Secretary announced the site has also been designated a national historic landmark.

- **Davis Oriole Earthlodge Site, Mills County, Iowa.** The Davis Oriole Earthlodge Site outstandingly illustrates the physical features of lodge habitations that commonly recur across the Plains and is exceptionally valuable for the study of this predominant Plains Village pattern habitation type.
- **Denver & Rio Grande Railroad San Juan Extension (Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad), Conejos and Archuleta Counties, CO and Rio Arriba County, N.M.** In terms of length, scale of operations, completeness, extensiveness of its steam operations, and state of preservation, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad San Juan Extension is one of the country's best surviving examples of a narrow gauge system from the peak of American railroading, roughly 1870 to 1930.
- **Denver Civic Center, Denver, Colo.** Heralded as "one of the most complete and intact City Beautiful civic centers in the country," the Denver Civic Center represents that movement's widespread impact on American cities through the creation of planned civic centers in the early 20th century.
- **Dr. Bob's Home (Dr. Robert and Anne Smith House), Akron, Ohio.** Dr. Bob's Home is associated with Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith (Dr. Bob) who, along with William Griffith Wilson (Bill W.), co-founded Alcoholics Anonymous, a global organization whose mission is to assist alcoholics in achieving and maintaining sobriety.
- **The Drakes Bay Historic and Archeological District, Point Reyes Station, Calif.** The site is directly associated with the earliest documented cross-cultural encounter between California Indians and Europeans, leaving the most complete material record on the West Coast. In addition, the site contains the earliest recorded shipwreck on the West Coast of the United States, the Spanish San Agustín.
- **Greendale Historic District, Village of Greendale, Wis. Greendale, Wisconsin**, one of three government-sponsored "greenbelt" communities built during the Great Depression, represents the federal response to the desperate unemployment of the era and the urgent need for housing reform for the urban working class.
- **The Hispanic Society of America Complex, New York City, N.Y.** With the founding of the Hispanic Society of America in 1904, Archer Milton Huntington created an institution which directly encouraged the promotion of all cultures associated with the Iberian Peninsula (including those in South America). This represented a nationally significant shift in both attitudes toward Hispanic culture and understanding of Hispanic-American history in the United States. The Hispanic Society of America was at the forefront of challenging simplistic and negative perceptions of Hispanic history and societies in the New World.
- **Historic Moravian Bethlehem Historic District, Bethlehem, Pa.** As an outstanding example of Moravian architecture and town planning, the Historic Moravian Bethlehem Historic District is the physical expression of a structured, 18th-century communal religious society.
- **Humpback Bridge, Alleghany County, Va.** Built in 1857, the Humpback Bridge is an outstanding example of 19th-century covered bridge construction and is the best surviving example of a timber multiple-kingpost truss, used for some of the earliest covered bridges in America.

- **Knight's Ferry Bridge, Stanislaus County, Calif.** Constructed in 1862-1863, Knight's Ferry Bridge is an exceptionally fine example of 19th-century covered bridge construction using the William Howe patented truss, one of the most successful and widely-used American timber bridge truss types.
- **McKeen Motor Car #70 (Virginia & Truckee Railway Motor Car #22), Carson City, Nev.** This is the best surviving example of the first commercially viable application of internal combustion power in a self-propelled railroad car.
- **Murray Springs Clovis Site, Cochise County, Ariz.** The Murray Springs Clovis Site is among the richest early Paleoindian sites in North America with a mammoth-kill site, a bison-kill site, and a Clovis camp site. Sites associated with the Clovis culture are extremely rare.
- **Poston Elementary School Unit 1, Colorado River Relocation Center, La Paz County, Ariz.** The second of 10 relocation centers established for the confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II, Poston is the only relocation center that retains an above-ground complex of elementary school buildings.
- **The Republic, Columbus, Ind.** The Republic is an exceptional work of modern architecture and one of the best examples of the work of Myron Goldsmith, a general partner in the firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, and a highly respected architect, architectural theorist, writer, and educator.
- **San José de los Jémez Mission and Gíusewa Pueblo Site, N.M.** San José de los Jémez Mission and Gíusewa Pueblo Site is associated with the spread of Spanish control northward in New Spain into the present-day American Southwest from 1598 to about 1639 and is an early representation of the intersection of European and native cultures.
- **Stepping Stones (Bill and Lois Wilson House), Katonah, N.Y.** Stepping Stones is the home of Bill and Lois Wilson, respective co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Al-Anon Family Groups. During the 47 years the Wilsons lived here, A.A. grew exponentially, spreading within and outside of the United States, with Bill Wilson serving as the leader of the movement.
- **United Congregational Church, Newport, R.I.** The murals and opalescent and stained glass windows of United Congregational Church, executed by artist John LaFarge between 1880 and 1881, are the only comprehensive interior designed by the artist.
- **The United States Post Office and Court House (the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California), Los Angeles, Calif.** Between 1945 and 1946, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California became an exceptionally important site in the annals of postwar American school desegregation efforts and the civil rights history of Mexican and Mexican-American people in the Southwest. This was the site of the 1946 Mendez v. Westminster School District lawsuit filed by five Latino families whose children were denied admission to public schools in Southern California. The decision by this federal court forbade segregation on the grounds that separate was not equal; it was the first court to declare that the doctrine of "separate but equal" ran counter to the United States Constitution.
- **The United States Post Office and Courthouse (James R. Browning U.S. Court of Appeals), San Francisco, Calif.** Constructed between 1897 and 1905, the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse in San Francisco is a superlative Beaux-Arts public building exhibiting a complex merger of a number of artistic disciplines: architecture, sculpture, painting, stained-glass and decorative arts.

- **University Heights Campus (Bronx Community College of The City University of New York), Bronx, N.Y.** New York University's "University Heights Campus" is a nationally significant example of Beaux-Arts architecture in the United States, and among the most important works by Stanford White, partner in McKim, Mead & White, the preeminent American architectural firm at the turn of the 20th century.

Salazar also designated Big Spring Creek in Saguache County, Colo., as a national natural landmark. This feature is unique in the region as a spring-fed, gaining stream formed by groundwater discharging from an unconfined aquifer. Emergent wetlands along the creek support a diversity of rare species and plant communities in an otherwise arid landscape.

The National Historic Landmarks Program, established in 1935, is administered by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. The agency works with preservation officials and other partners interested in nominating a landmark. Completed applications are reviewed by the National Park System Advisory Board, which makes recommendations for designation to the Secretary of the Interior. If selected, property ownership remains intact but each site receives a designation letter, a plaque, and technical preservation advice.

Additional information on the designations can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/nhl>.

"Bloom where you're planted; but first rub soap under your nails so they will clean free of dirt when you wash"--a Master Gardner

### **Engaging Children Through Playful Learning: A Case Study**

By PENNY ALLEN and MATT DILLER

[read article online | communityworksjournal](#)

Common sense tells us, when we do what we love, we do it well. When work is fun, we are more creative, we are more thoughtful, and we want to keep building upon that success. Best practices in curriculum design start with that same wisdom. Students who are engaged in meaningful, creative learning projects that connect to the real world are more motivated to succeed. These students are invested in an excellent outcome. Doing something that matters compels kids to expect more of themselves and perform at a higher level than if the greatest motivation was merely a good grade or a gold star.

So how do we go about designing project-based curriculum that allows for deep and effective learning?

After many years of successfully designing such curriculum, we believe that an effective project-based curriculum needs to be:

*Authentic  
Experiential  
and Reflective*

*(edited.....click on site to read full article)*

### **Conclusion**

When our students do what they love, they tend to do it well. That is where we suggest any teacher begins to design his own curriculum that engages children through playful learning. Our third grade students at The College School had a most amazing year of learning as they followed a path of learning that was:

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### **2012-2013 Abdelkader**

#### **Global Leadership Prize**

Attention members!

Our friends at the Abdelkader Education Project have announced the 2012-2013 Abdelkader Global Leadership Prize! High school and college students throughout the U.S. are invited to participate in essay contests that reflect on the contemporary meaning of the life of Emir Abdelkader (1808-1883). He was an Arab Muslim hero from Algeria admired by President Lincoln, Queen Victoria, Pope Pius IX and countless others of different nationalities, religions, and social classes. [Click here](#) to download the flyer.

Contest details and deadlines can also be found on the Abdelkader Education Project website at [www.abdelkaderproject.org](http://www.abdelkaderproject.org). **Questions?** Contact Kathy Garms, Project Director, at [abdelkaderproject@gmail.com](mailto:abdelkaderproject@gmail.com).

Attention! The Reno College Fair is coming up on Sunday, Nov. 4th. It takes place at the "Joe" at UNR . The room is capped at 100 so we are getting close to a full house! Visit the Facebook page or see the flyer below.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Reno-College-Fair-official/238597289521240?ref=ts>

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### **From the Eagle Watch #240**

October 9, 2012

Here's an important announcement from Six Nations children. That a situation like this can happen over and over, is such a disgrace to the Government of Canada, the Crown and their Corporate elitists. Hopefully a crowd of noisy parents and children will embarrass them into doing the right thing. Their sinister agenda has long been clearly one of genocide. Kittoh

### **SUPPLIES NOT LIES! HONOUR THE TREATIES!**

**Act against the injustice faced by Six Nations children, and demand treaty rights to education be honoured!**

Thursday Oct.11 12pm    Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)  
25 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto.

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/366839806727115/>

Buses leave from Six Nations Old Council House at 10a.m. and return by 3pm.

Are you going to come stand with me to fight for everything it takes to have my kids get the good education they deserve? - Rhonda Martin, Six Nations.

Despite ordering supplies 5 months ago, Six Nations schools still do not have all supplies and are facing a more general funding crisis. At some Six Nations schools, reports are emerging of supply teachers not being paid, the hot water being shut off, and photocopiers are under threat of being repossessed. As teachers are overwhelmed with trying to make up for inadequate resources, parents have taken a stand against the aggressions of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and the Federal Government. They have been met with lies, disrespect and broken promises from Director of Education Peter Jones and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs John Duncan. Enough is enough! Parents, teachers and allies demand justice, SUPPLIES NOT LIES!

This injustice is only the latest in a long line of actions which fail to uphold the treaty rights to education that Canada must abide to with the people of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Six Nations and Tyendinaga are the only two reserves in Ontario which have refused the devolution of educational funding onto band councils, and have insisted that the federal government live up to its treaty responsibilities and fund education. However, massive cutbacks to education and attempts by the Conservatives to pass a unilateral approach to education under the First Nations Schools Act, are laying the groundwork for the further undermining of treaty rights. These moves show the colonial face of state policies and a return to paternalistic attitude towards sovereign First Nations, which is part of the fierce austerity agenda we ALL are facing.

As long as we are on this land, we are all treaty people and are bound by the treaties that our ancestors made together. [A]According to its 20112012 Report on Plans and Priorities, AANDC will spend roughly \$1.65 billion for educational services, with projections of \$1.68 billion for 20122013 and \$1.70 billion for 20132014[A] (Senate Report, December 2011). We are asking where are the supplies for Six Nations children, where have these funds gone? Let[A]s stand together to stop the Federal Government of Canada[A]s colonial education agenda and demand it fully uphold treaty rights.

Join Six Nations parents and teachers to demand SUPPLIES NOT LIES! HONOUR THE TREATIES!

[A]We are now all on a path toward reconciliation. To walk this path honourably we must act not only to transform First Nations education in a way that reconnects First Nations children to their languages, cultures and communities, but we must also transform our fundamental relationship with the First Peoples of this country, from paternalism to partnership. Finally, we must make good on our promises and responsibilities and act boldly today to restore what was wrongly diminished: a child[A]s hope for their future, a chance to reach their full creative potential and to take their rightful place in their community and in their country.[A] - Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, December 2011

For more info:

Contact: CUPE 3903 First Nations Solidarity Working Group at [cupe3903fnSWG@gmail.com](mailto:cupe3903fnSWG@gmail.com)

Check out the week of resistance and call-out from parents, teachers, allies:

On Monday Oct.1st: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTsLARB9V80&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTsLARB9V80&feature=player_embedded)

On Friday Oct. 4th: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzkKc8XnFdI&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzkKc8XnFdI&feature=player_embedded)

APTN coverage: <http://aptn.ca/pages/news/2012/10/04/six-nations-parents-outraged-over-ottawas-handling-of-school-supplies/>

Star Phoenix article: <http://www.thestarphoenix.com/life/Column+Underfunding+first+nations+losing+strategy/7347631/story.html>

CBC article: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/story/2012/10/02/pol-cp-first-nations-education-figures.html>

¶ Aboriginal Affairs says it spent an average of \$13,542 for each student in the 2010-2011 school year not including money for infrastructure and building maintenance.

The amounts vary by province. First Nations kids in the Atlantic Provinces get \$14,505 apiece, while Saskatchewan students get \$12,159, the government research says.

That compares to a national per-student average of \$10,439 in 2009, according to Statistics Canada.

But it contradicts data from the AFN that shows First Nations receive about \$7,101 for each student, on average. ¶

Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, December 2011

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/411/appa/rep/rep03dec11-e.pdf>

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### **Generations unite at Elko Pow-Wow**

By JOHN RASCHE            ELKO DAILY FREE PRESS            Oct. 15, 2012 | 1:59 a.m.

ELKO - The elders slowly progressed across the gymnasium, carrying the American and Te-Moak Tribe flags above their feathered headdresses before stopping in the center of the floor of the Elko Indian Colony Gym.

The beating of the drums continued as the rest of the Elko Band Pow-Wow dancers, both young and old, followed behind the color guard, which then started to circle the auditorium.

The procession was part of the event's grand entry last weekend as the Elko Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone hosted its annual Pow-Wow.

For many Native Americans, the Pow-Wow is an opportunity to unite the generations by respecting the elders and supporting the youth.

"I've seen some (Native American) dancing before, but this is my first Pow-Wow," spectator Beth Carpel said.

"The dancing is so mesmerizing, and I love seeing people of all ages, all generations, dancing together."

Shirley Reeder of Logan, Utah, has been attending the Pow-Wow with her husband and children for 17 years. She said it's a chance to reflect on family and friends.

"Elko gives us a chance to relax from the summer," she said. "I like it here because everybody just wants to have fun and dance."

But there's more to a Pow-Wow than dancing.

"Everyone in that circle is thinking about someone or are thinking of ways to improve themselves," Reeder said, gesturing toward the circle of dancers encompassing the gym.

"When you're in the circle, it represents eternity to me. It's sacred. That's why you sweat (while dancing) - you're giving up something for the person you're thinking about."

Many of the dancers had been to the Elko Band Pow-Wow before, but others were experiencing the Elko event for the first time.

For newcomer Bernard A. Baga, the Pow-Wow felt like home.

"It feels good to dance around for my people here, even if they don't know me," said Baga, who is from Southern California, but has a distant history with the Native American community in Elko.

"My mom's people are from Ruby Valley, so I'm half-Shoshoni," he said. "I went to high school here and it feels good to be back. I've been gone a long time."

As the grand entry ceremony continued, the body of dancers transformed into a living, turning swirl of colors responding to the bass of the beating drums.

Young children in headbands blurred into bright multicolored streaks alongside their elders covered in feathers.

The Pow-Wow took on the pace of a beating heart, expressing the joy and vibrancy of life.

"We are still here," Spiritual Leader Gonne Mendez chanted during the ceremony. "We are still here. We are still here in the 21st century to continue the traditions of our people."

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