

**Journal #2734**

**from sdc**

**11.30.12**

*Eagle Wings Performance*

*College and Career Readiness*

**BUSINESSWOMAN REINCARNATES NATIVE AMERICAN ART GALLERY**

*from the Washoe County School Superintendent Pedro Martinez*

*KBRA faces uphill battle*

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**PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

**Eagle Wings Performance**

**NASO We Tell Stories Event**

**Friday - November 30**

**UNR Joe Crowley Theatre - Third Floor of Student Union**

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An Invitation for Native American Indian Students and Parents

Washoe County School District Parent University And the Education Alliance

Present a special program on **College and Career Readiness**

What do YOU need to know about preparing for college and career?

What classes should you take?

What tests?

What GPA do you need?

What kind of diploma?

Get you answers to these questions and more at a special presentation specifically geared towards Native American Indian Students, Parents, and Families

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Reno Sparks Indian Colony

34 Reservation Road

Reno, NV

Light refreshments and childcare will be provided.

Hope to see you there!

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**BUSINESSWOMAN REINCARNATES NATIVE AMERICAN ART GALLERY**

Dreamcatchers line the turquoise walls of Michaela Hald's off-Strip art gallery.

<http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz15229334>

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**from the Washoe County Schools Superintendent, Pedro Martinez:**

As I look at this information as a whole, I also see several key themes that provide important context for all of us to understand if we are going to be successful in our pursuit of excellence for every child.

### **Better Focused Initiatives**

In listening to all internal and external stakeholders, it is apparent to me that we need to focus on existing initiatives at a deeper level so that they are implemented methodically and employed with purpose. I have heard time and time again that we have too many initiatives. I am told we are doing a lot of “things” but not mastering them.

As such, we need to prioritize our initiatives and delve deeper into the current programs and plans that are making a difference. The solutions to the challenges we face are within our District and our strategic plan, Envision WCSD 2015 – Investing In Our Future. Now is not the time to add new initiatives, but instead to make sure we are focused and intentional with the ones that are critical in moving our school district forward. We must implement our plans effectively and align our scarce resources properly so we have a strong foundation to build on.

The areas of focus outlined in this action plan are going to be our priorities moving forward, with much of the planning happening this year and the beginning of the implementation phase during the 2013-2014 school year. These are all based on the strategic plan and what I heard during my conversations with staff, parents, and the community. With these priorities in mind, we will be updating the strategic plan in the coming year to extend to 2017. This update will detail these priorities and show which initiatives will be slowed down to ensure our efforts are deliberate and effective.

As we work on building a stronger foundation that builds the capacity of our educators, parents, community, and students, we also must address our immediate challenges. It is not acceptable to wait until students are at risk or in jeopardy of not graduating from high school to engage them through intervention efforts and remediation courses. We are currently playing catch-up.

We cannot wait until high school to address this critical issue, and we must move forward with some of our plans straightaway. Through the graduation and intervention initiatives, we are working directly with schools to help students who are in critical need of extra support so that they can move up the proficiency scale and graduate from high school. These are not new programs, but ones that are essential to addressing the short-term challenges that we face.

### **Achievement Gaps**

Our data shows that despite the academic gains across our sub-groups, we are not closing the achievement gap in a meaningful way. There is still a significant achievement gap among our minority students, English language learners, and special education students. A prime example of the achievement gap is at the middle school level. We must address this issue before our school district can move to the next level.

We must use data to identify where additional work is needed and be intentional about how we close the achievement gap.

### **Current Achievement Gap Difference from Overall Middle School Performance Data**

Student Populations	Middle School Reading Science	Middle School Math	Middle School
African-American	-15%	-16%	-22%
Asian	+12%	+13%	+11%
FRL (Free and Reduced Lunch)	-15%	-11%	-18%
Hispanic	-15%	-11%	-20%
IEP (Special Education)	-46%	-44%	-39%
LEP (English Language Learners)	-49%	-42%	-50%
Multiracial	+5%	+5%	+8%
<b>Native American</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-15%</b>
Pacific Islander	-19%	-12%	-22%
White	+10%	+8%	+14%

<http://www.washoecountyschools.org/community/office-of-superintendent/action-plan>

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### **KBRA faces uphill battle**

The impending expiration of the 42-party Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) has again mobilized supporters and opponents alike, as both sides scramble to influence the fate of the deal aimed at removing four PacifiCorp dams on the Klamath River.

*John Bowman, Siskiyou Daily News*

The impending expiration of the 42-party Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) has again mobilized supporters and opponents alike, as both sides scramble to influence the fate of the deal aimed at removing four PacifiCorp dams on the Klamath River.

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*Broadband is the communication infrastructure of the 21st Century. The importance is the analogy of what highways did for commerce, etc. As the nation experiences a variety of efforts to ensure that the networks are inclusive, many rural and tribal areas face special challenges.*

*Below is information about the status of broadband “stuff” in Nevada, but it serves as an example of what is, or what may be, going on in other areas. Tribal planners, economic development officers, librarians, health centers, public safety personnel should all ensure that their tribal government has a broadband plan that comprehensively encompasses all units and that that plan is sustainable and interactive with other jurisdictions.*

*The Nevada Broadband Task Force Member representing, and therefore the point person for Nevada tribal communities is Sherry Rupert at the Nevada Indian Commission. Inquiries and assistance may also be found at Connect Nevada or with Daphne DeLeon, Task Force Chair at the Nevada State Library and Archives. Don’t be left out. sdc*

### **Broadband updates**

**USUCAN update** — Ed Anderson, Nevada System of Higher Education

Mr. Anderson reported on the United States Unified Community Anchor Network (USUCAN) project, which is a consortium of public and private stakeholders with the mission to link regional networks to a national network (100Gbps). He stated the NTIA

awarded 62.5 million dollars to create this network with a focus on Community Anchor Institutions. The named partners are the National Land to Rail, Internet 2, The Northern Tier Network Consortium, and Indiana University. The total project will cost 100 million with large contributions from the named partners. For Nevada, this means two nodes will be built, one in Reno and one in Las Vegas, which doesn't provide any new connections or any rural specific connections. There may be opportunities in the future; Nevada may be able to partner with Utah or some of our neighboring states to connect to the larger network. There is additional information at [www.usucan.org](http://www.usucan.org).

#### Discussion:

Mr. Enders asked which branch of NTIA is supporting the USUCAN project. Mrs. DeLeon stated it is managed by the same organization that manages all the infrastructure grants. She also stated the importance for leveraging connections and making sure efforts at the federal level are not duplicative. Mr. Kevin Hayes asked if NevadaNet could offer service to the USUCAN project as revenue source. Mr. Anderson stated they are not a provider and NevadaNet cannot generate revenue.

**Nevada HIT project update** -- Lynn O'Mara, Nevada State Health IT Coordinator  
Ms. Lynn O'Mara stated there has been direction from the federal government directing the State Health Information Technologies (HIT) coordinators to look at public safety and support their networks specifically related to natural disasters. This is currently integrated in the State HIT plan.

The Nevada Health Information Exchange (HIE), the governing body, is now a legal entity. They are meeting the 3rd Tuesday each month, with ad hoc meetings to accommodate the large list of objectives to meet.

In addition, the State HIT office is working with the libraries to develop a pilot which engages consumers and allows them to access their medical records. There are also steps toward establishing a secure email exchange network, which will be in place by the next Task Force meeting.

Mrs. DeLeon stated she had recently toured the Pyramid Lake Health Center (PLHC) which currently exchanges information with Indian Health Services (IHS). She asked if that meant PLHC met meaningful use requirements.

Mrs. O'Mara stated the PLHC secured funding which allows them to interact with IHS which is a closed system, similar to the VA (Veterans Affairs). Those health centers which are trying to become federally qualified health centers will need additional support.

#### **Connect Nevada:**

Mrs. Debbie Erdody and Mr. Ariel Martinez reported on the progress toward completion of each assessment in the 14 rural counties, including kick-offs in Mineral County and Elko County. Mr. Martinez stated most assessments will be completed by the end of the year with some additional spill over early 2013. Mrs. Niedzielski clarified the process: the community enters information into the portal, then Connected Nation makes recommendations, the community edits and picks priority projects, and then Connected Nation compiles a plan for the community, which is the physical deliverable

for the grant.

**Arizona Nevada Tower:**

Mr. Kevin Hayes added the USDA Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) grant works separately to create pro formas but has leveraged the work Connect Nevada has done to inform the pro forma and to supplement the community plans. These pro formas are set to be complete in the next 6 months. Mr. Hayes stated he is currently working on 6 pro formas.

**Nevada Hospital Association/E-Care:**

Mrs. DeLeon stated the Nevada Hospital Association/E-Care contact has changed to Mr. John Clayton and he should be encouraged to participate at the local level. Mr. Martinez stated Mr. Clayton had been involved in Mineral County.

Mrs. Tammy James stated she supports E-Care 100% but has concerns about their statements related to pole agreements with NV Energy. Mr. Jim Garza stated there may be an opportunity for the Nevada Broadband Task Force to leverage the Swift power line and the easement, between Ely and Elko. Mr. Garza said he would follow up with additional information about the Swift Line. He added international transit systems may also be a good leverage point.

**Las Vegas Clark County Urban League:**

Mr. Jeff Drothler reported the Urban League BTOP Grant end date is January 31, 2013. They are seeking additional funding immediately, without which they will need to adjust service levels. Mr. Lawrence Beasley gave a project overview and emphasized the training they do, specifically, how it differs from traditional training to include Microsoft Office specialization.

Mrs. DeLeon asked if the 1.5 million dollars they are seeking for funding is to serve and operate the Public Computing Centers. Mr. Drothler replied that the City of Las Vegas, the Latin Chamber, the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, and the Commerce Community Foundation are partnering to identify potential solutions to maintain the PCCs. The city is likely to maintain the centers with a lower operating cost model. The Housing Authority will be paired down from 19 to 4 or 5 PCCs. The Latin Chamber will continue to operate as well as several PCCs maintained by the Urban League.

**Lyon County School District:**

Mr. Medeiros reported that all six Lyon County PCCs are online, with staffing of 5 or 6 volunteers at each site. The school board approved the funding for the bridge network between locations and is funded through the end of the grant. The bridge connects 14 locations to the codex and has a great deal of strong partnerships that continue to facilitate the sites even post grant.

**Arizona Nevada Tower BIP Grant:**

Mr. Hayes reported the project is progressing, just slower than expected. The grant cycle has been extended to the end of 2015.

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**Iconic Carson City prison could become museum**

By [Ed Vogel](#)

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL CAPITAL BUREAU CARSON CITY Nov. 26, 2012

The 150-year-old Nevada State Prison has been gathering cobwebs since it closed Jan. 4. And in a state without funds for anything new, its destiny might be a wrecking ball.

But there is a glimmer of hope that the capital city icon can be saved.

A retired 77-year-old Douglas High School teacher who would like to take his students on prison tours has formed the nonprofit Nevada State Prison Preservation Society, whose goal is converting the facility into a museum.

Myron Carpenter is aware it's a long shot. But with donations, the help of volunteers and approval of a 99-year lease agreement with the state, he figures there is a 95 percent chance of opening at least sections of a prison museum by July 2014.

The archaic, shabby prison was the second-oldest operating prison - behind San Quentin - in the United States and the only prison where inmates ran their own casino.

Like the state Capitol, Nevada State Prison was built of sandstone quarried on the prison sites. At its peak, the prison housed 800 inmates at a time. They lived two to a 6-foot by 9-foot cell. Over the years, 54 inmates were executed, most of them in the nation's first gas chamber.

Besides touring the prison, Carpenter envisions visitors renting cells for the night and some people even marrying inside the prison. The prison dining area could become a restaurant and coffee shop. Basketball and volleyball tournaments could be held in the prison gym. Movies could be filmed there, as they have been in the past. And the visitors the museum attracts would help the local economy.

"People don't want to live in a prison, but they want to see what is inside them," said Carpenter. "Prison museums are becoming the No. 1 tourist attraction. It's tough times, but we can save the prison."

But others are not as sure.

"With all due respect, these people are well-meaning but amateurs," said Guy Rocha, a state historian and former state archivist. "This is a professional project. You need professional fundraisers and marketers. You need a full-blown professional plan with the vision and costs. There will be liabilities. The group has to get insurance. I see years of work ahead."

safety codes

Peter Barton, the administrator of the state Division of History and Museums, has been working with the museum group, advising members on what they will need to do before opening.

"They have to bring it up to today's safety codes," he said. "It is going to take a significant investment, and they will need to phase it in over time."

He noted the state closed the prison in part because of a study that found it did not meet the Americans With Disabilities Act, which requires ramps to give handicapped people access to restrooms and other facilities, and current building codes. The state Public Works Board had estimated it would cost \$29 million to bring the prison up to code.

Attracting visitors to state-operated museums hasn't been easy in recent years. Barton said state museums last year showed a small increase in tourism, but because of the need to save money

during the recession, state museums are open only four days a week, and staff members work 32-hour weeks.

The new Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas attracted 54,000 visitors in its first year of operation, less than the 120,000 estimates, which Barton considered much too ambitious. Admission fees were increased at museums in 2010, but because attendance fell short, the Legislature in 2010 approved \$150,806 to cover the shortfall.

The original prison, constructed in 1862, was destroyed by fire in 1867. Carpenter said they only want the oldest part of the prison, built after the fire.

The bill is still being drafted, and details will be debated in the Legislature, but the key portion is the Preservation Society wants a 99-year, \$1-a-year lease. The organization has already acquired nonprofit tax status.

He said the Preservation Society needs to build a "lift" or elevator to bring visitors up to the second floor which holds the execution chamber, but that should be the only major cost.

He said his organization now has about 100 members, many of them retired prison workers, and hopes people from around the state will join.

Noting he has a talented group, he said they will go after grants and serve as the volunteer staff of the museum.

#### BILL WOULD ALLOW LEASE

Before they can seek grants, Carpenter said the state Legislature needs to pass the bill allowing the lease of the prison for 99 years.

The sponsor of that bill, Assemblyman Pete Livermore, R-Carson City, said a prison museum could benefit Carson City's economy.

He fears that if the state waits too long, the prison could suffer the same fate as the Virginia & Truckee Railroad roundhouse in downtown Carson City.

The 19th century building, with space for a dozen locomotives, fell into disrepair and became an eyesore after the railroad closed in 1950. At its peak, the V&T was the richest short-line railroad in the country. It carried gold and silver from Virginia City's mines to Carson City and Reno for shipment to San Francisco and passengers to Reno, Carson City and Minden. About 20 years ago, the railroad roundhouse, then privately held, was torn down, and the rocks of the structure were sold to California wineries.

"There is no money coming from the Legislature to do this (make a prison museum)," Livermore said. "It is going to have to come from fundraisers. I would rather it be reclaimed for the benefit of Carson City than just sit there."

Carpenter and former Corrections Director Glen Whorton have addressed the governor and other members of the state Board of Examiners about their hopes. Gov. Brian Sandoval noted that

prison museums are becoming a national tourist attraction but made no promises of supporting the bill.

#### NEVADA PRISON: LOTS TO OFFER

Carpenter said the Nevada State Prison has a lot to offer visitors.

Known as "The Max" because it housed all state prisoners for 100 years and the state's most violent inmates until 1989, the prison was the site of the nation's first gas chamber execution. Gee Jon received the first lethal dose of gas in 1924.

It remains the only prison in Nevada with an execution chamber, but no inmates have been executed since 2006. Plans are progressing to build a new death chamber at the Ely State Prison which now houses the state's Death Row.

In all, 32 inmates were gassed in the prison before the law was changed requiring executions by lethal injection.

Starting with the execution of Las Vegas killer Jesse Bishop in 1979, 12 inmates have received lethal injections. All but one decided to commit what some refer to legal suicide because they decided to die when they still had pending legal appeals.

Once Nevada legalized gambling, prison officials decided inmates might as well have a casino, too. The Bull Pen casino operated from 1932 until 1967. Former Mustang Ranch owner Joe Conforte, now a fugitive from justice, ran the casino in the early 1960s when he was an inmate.

The prison site contains a sandstone quarry where the rocks to build the Capitol, the prison itself and many historic local homes were mined.

There also is the sandstone "hole" where misbehaving inmates were kept in solitary confinement. Meals were lowered to the malcontents through a hole in the roof.

Contact Capital Bureau Chief Ed Vogel [evogel@reviewjournal.com](mailto:evogel@reviewjournal.com) or 775-687-3901.

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#### **A Vacant Lot Offers Refugees a Taste of Home**

By [FERNANDA SANTOS](#) NYT November 26, 2012

PHOENIX — Hussein Al Hamka is going to farm his famous cucumbers on a 15-acre vacant lot in the heart of this city, where nearly half of all lots sit empty and unused.

If his piece of fertilized dirt had a price tag, it would cost much more than he could ever dream of affording; the lot is valued at \$25 million, or at least it was before the housing market collapsed and it was left undeveloped. To survive, Mr. Hamka, 50, an Iraqi refugee three years into his life in the United States, grows and sells cucumbers just like the ones he ate in his home country.

On Friday, Fidele Komezusenge, 25, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, picked rocks from the loose soil in the raised beds next to Mr. Hamka's. Mr. Komezusenge was planning



to plant carrot and cabbage seeds, his first farming foray since arriving in the United States in June. Nearby, Safala Chhetri, 50, a refugee from Bhutan who arrived in 2009, wavered between planting spinach or kale, but then decided to give onions a second chance.

“I planted them on my backyard last year, but they didn’t do so great,” Ms. Chhetri said.

The refugees are accidental farmers in an unlikely urban field that is part of an ambitious plan to transform vacant land. The lot sits on one of the busiest corners of this expansive city, across from an English pub, near a light-rail stop and in sight of the glimmering high rises that punctuate downtown.

In Detroit or Buffalo, empty lots are ubiquitous reminders of what once was, places where buildings stood until they were abandoned during rough times that still endure. Here, the lots are a sign of what could be — promise and eyesore wrapped together in undeveloped slices of weeds and packed dirt.

In his inaugural speech in January, Mayor Greg Stanton spoke about the fields as empty canvases “filled with opportunities.” Last Monday, he broke ground on the lot where the refugees were working on Friday. Soon, shady trees and murals painted by local artists will color the barren landscape. Food trucks will operate there someday, Mr. Stanton said in an interview, and there will be plenty of space for children to play and adults to socialize.

“We want to change the conversation about vacant lots in the city,” Mr. Stanton said.

The land came into the city’s hands at no cost, at the end of a three-way land swap involving the federal government and a private developer. It used to be part of a bigger lot that held a boarding school for American Indian children from reservations across the Southwest, who were indoctrinated into Euro-American values. Some of the buildings still stand in the adjacent Steele Indian School Park.  
*(remember this?! sdc)*

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, the lot’s former owner, traded it with a developer, the Barron Collier Companies, for a piece of swampland in Florida. The city then gave the developer a different plot downtown in exchange for the area that houses the park. The remaining 15 acres stayed in Barron Collier’s hands. A few months ago, Mr. Stanton asked if the city could use the remaining land — for three years, but “maybe longer,” if in three years the developer still had no plans for it. The developer agreed.

The project is simple. Mr. Stanton said his goal was to create “not a Taj Mahal, but something replicable,” fit for lots of all sizes, in spots of high visibility and in hidden corners of poor neighborhoods.

The lot stands at the intersection of Indian School Road and Central Avenue, which slices Phoenix from north to south and from where the refugees’ crops will eventually be visible. Seven families have prepared half an acre of land for planting. Timothy Olorunfemi, the farm program coordinator in Phoenix for the International Rescue Committee, a refugee resettlement agency, said that 80 families would soon be working on two acres of land.

The first farming season runs through February or March; leafy greens, onions and root vegetables are among its main crops. Summer crops include melons, eggplants, tomatoes and, for Mr. Hamka, his cucumbers.

Mr. Hamka was a mechanic for the Iraqi Army, but he learned to farm from his parents, who grew wheat, barley and other grains on the family farm near Kurdistan. When he left Iraq for a refugee camp in Syria, he carried some cucumber seeds, which he then brought to Phoenix, where he planted them. The cucumbers they yield are a lighter shade of green than the cucumbers found in the supermarket here, and they have a smoother skin and a sweeter taste. He sells them in Arabic markets in Phoenix and San Diego, where they are known as “Al Hamka cucumbers.”

Ms. Chhetri, who has a degree in history, also learned to farm from her parents. She said she pays her mortgage here with the money she makes by selling the vegetables she grows in her backyard.

Mr. Komezusenge is an agronomist and worked for the Congolese Ministry of Agriculture before he escaped to a refugee camp in Rwanda and, from there, to the United States. When he got to Phoenix, he said: “I was surprised. The area is very different from Africa. Africa is very green. Maybe no agriculture here.”

But he said he was again surprised when he spotted leaves sprouting from a neighbor’s garden, a sight that taught him that “the land can feed you anywhere, even in the desert.”

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## DHS HS-STEM Summer Internship Program Program Overview

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) sponsors a 10-week summer internship program for students majoring in homeland security related science, technology, engineering and mathematics (HS-STEM) disciplines. This program is open to undergraduate students in a broad spectrum of DHS mission-relevant [research areas](#) and graduate students interested in the specific field of [Nuclear and Radiological Threat Detection](#).

The DHS HS-STEM Summer Internship Program provides students with the opportunity to conduct research at federal research facilities located across the country. The goal of this program is to engage a diverse, educated, and skilled pool of scientists and engineers in HS-STEM issues and to promote long-term relationships between student researchers, DHS, and federal research facilities to enhance the HS-STEM workforce.

DHS has partnered with the [Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education \(ORISE\)](#) to manage the application and review process, notification, and implementation of the program.

*DHS reserves the right to make no awards or to cancel this program. DHS assumes no liability for canceling the HS-STEM Summer Internship Program or for anyone's failure to receive actual notification of cancellation.*

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**LOVE YA!**

*Listen to this touching message from Tommy Sondgroth, a member of the National Reined Cow Horse Association Hall of Fame.*

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**Women's Honoring Song** [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

"Anagehya- women of all the Nations - you are the strength, you are the force, you are the healing of the Nations." - Performed in concert at the Blue Deer C...

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**Karen McDade** passed away on Friday, November 23, 2012, at Elko Regional Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer.

A loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend, her family kept a continuous vigil at her side until she passed.

She was born in Lee, Nevada, on February 28, 1942, to Charles and Tena Malotte, both deceased.

She married Marvin McDade in 1962, and they resided on their ranch at Lee until she could no longer get around. The last event she attended was the Elko County Fair where she loved to watch the branding contests.

Karen is survived by her husband, Marvin, her two children, Marla McDade Williams and Steve McDade, two granddaughters, Sydney and Jade, one step-grandson Zane, brothers Charles and Dale Malotte of Lee, and sisters Bernice Lalo of Battle Mountain, and Margaret Townsend of Glendale, Arizona, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She dearly loved her grandchildren, her children, her husband, and her family. She will be missed by all who knew her.

At her request, there was no funeral but a viewing held at Burns Funeral Home for family and friends.