

***Journal #3930      from sdc      7.3.17***

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**Reno-area Native students earn right to wear eagle feathers in graduation caps**



RENO, Nev. — The Native American communities of Washoe County were in an ongoing battle this spring for Native high school students to have the right to wear eagle feathers on their graduation caps.

"It is culturally insensitive to tell a student they can't display their feather," said Christina Thomas, former Paiute Language and cultural instructor for Washoe County School District, in a June interview with First Nation's Focus.

The district's previous long-standing policy of not allowing any decorations on caps at all was set to ensure students would not decorate caps with offensive language or gang-related symbols.

Further, according to the district, other WCSD concerns were that it would be seen as distracting or unfair if certain students were allowed special privileges, such as beading a cap or displaying the eagle feather.

According to an article in late May in the Reno Gazette-Journal, however, Washoe County Deputy School Superintendent Kristen McNeill's office said in a memo that the right to wear eagle feathers is guaranteed under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

Due to that, as well as in response to mountain concerns from Native students, the district announced at that time a temporary exception to the policy for graduation this year.

"It is very symbolic and a significant honor, not only for us, but for the future generations to get to represent our culture," said Quecholli Nordwall, enrolled member of the Stillwater Shoshone Tribe and graduating senior at Reed High School, when asked by First Nation's Focus to comment on the issue. "Native students want to graduate now. They want to get the opportunity to wear their feathers and represent their people."

"Other generations can feel this sense of pride and get the opportunity to show their heritage and not be ashamed of it," added fellow Reed High senior and graduate Jonas Grant III, enrolled member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. "Wearing my eagle feather gives me a sense of pride; I get to represent my heritage."

### **A deep-rooted history**

More goes into a student being honored with an eagle feather than many people might think.

There is a blessing ceremony, in which a tribal elder blesses each feather individually for each student.

Reynelda James, Pyramid Lake Paiute elder and Deacon of Native Ministries, performed the ceremony this spring for the four Native graduates at Reed High School — Nordwall and Grant III, along with David Mahe and Nathan Cortez.

James prayed in her Paiute language and used sacred water from Pyramid Lake and sage sprigs to bless each feathers.

"Always have great respect for this feather — take care of this, it is yours," said James. "It will always be with you. No one touches this. It is yours. Always remember where you came from. You didn't do this alone; there are people who have helped you, and we pray for them too.

"You will reach your heights — know who you are."

The ceremony was emotional and moving, bringing some graduates to tears — knowing the struggles Native people have faced in the past to get where they are today gave the graduates a sense of honor and pride.

Jon Lowery, a graduate from Reed High school in 2005, sang an honor song and spoke to the graduates at the ceremony.

"Wherever you go on your travels, take your feather with you," said Lowery. "The eagle feathers are blessed and ready to be hung on your grad caps."

### **Native voices are heard**

All the hard work and persistence of these young men, and the community as a whole, did not go unnoticed.

U.S. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., personally sent a letter to Nordwall in response to his efforts to make this important issue a policy.

"I would like to commend you for your efforts on organizing students across the Washoe County School District to stand up against the ban of feathers on graduation caps," Masto wrote in the letter. "Due to your hard work and persistence, Washoe County reversed its standing policy. Congratulations on ensuring the right to wear an eagle feather at graduation for your graduating class and the generations to come."

For the Reed seniors — who all graduated June 12 — they know their efforts locally contributed to a much-larger goal.

"It feels pretty good that I'll get the opportunity to represent my culture that was almost lost," said Cortez.

Added Nordwall: "It is the greatest honor to be able to walk with my three brothers, representing our culture, and wearing our eagle feathers together."

Jarrette Werk is a journalism student at the University of Nevada, Reno, and works for the Sierra Nevada Media Group as an intern, writing and taking photos for First Nation's Focus. Email him at [intern@firstnationsfocus.com](mailto:intern@firstnationsfocus.com).

## Museums accelerate implementation of digital strategies

[Read Full Report](#)

According to a new report from [Axiell](#), museums have accelerated their adoption of digitization both on premise and online to better attract, build and engage their audiences.

The report is based on research conducted in partnership with [Museums and the Web](#). A survey tapped 125 decision-makers from institutions worldwide, spanning museum leadership, curatorial and sales staff, digital information managers and IT. Results point to the growing use of digital tactics by institutions to engage audiences but also the need for a more comprehensive strategy to manage, integrate and deliver digital content across platforms.

### A few key findings from the survey include:

- Institutions are progressing with their digital strategies – Two years ago, 60% of respondents stated their digital strategy was “in development,” compared to 39% today, signaling the growing shift from “thinking” about digitization to “doing” it.
- A growing number of institutions are making their collections available online, with 22% citing their entire collection is now online; 28% saying more than half their collection is online; and another 38.3% indicating that less than half their collection is online. Only

14% cited that their collection was not available at all online.

#### •Mobility in the Mix –

Engaging visitors via their personal mobile devices is a growing priority at institutions, but only 3% of institutions say they are “satisfied” with their current mobile solution.

•“More Efficiency, Please”: Over 66% agreed their process could be

**Use your native  
language everyday,  
no matter how much  
or how little you  
know..**

**Your ancestors will  
hear you. 🙌**

improved

- While nearly 50% of respondents said their institution has an e-commerce store, only 3% indicated the merchandise found there is connected to the online collection.

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[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2017/06/28/Trump-wants-golden-age-of-American-energy-domiance/6401498671401/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2017/06/28/Trump-wants-golden-age-of-American-energy-domiance/6401498671401/)

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**Today's selection -- from Paper by Mark Kurlansky.** The materials used for writing before modern paper:

"Clay tablets were the world's primary writing material for three thousand years -- a considerably longer period than the reign of paper up until now.

"The banks of the Nile River are softened by thick growths of tall papyrus reeds with feathery tops that bow and sway in the breezes. According to legend, an infant who would be called Moses was found abandoned in a patch of these reeds in about 1500 BCE. At the time, the reeds themselves were already an important Egyptian product, and they would remain valuable for the next fifteen hundred years. ...

"But the plants were most valued as writing material. The papyrus reed peels like an onion, and once the green outer layer is removed, there are about twenty inner layers. These would be unrolled and laid out on a hard and smooth table, with each layer slightly overlapping the next....

"Other civilizations in different climates found other plants to flatten into writing surfaces. ... What was unique about Egyptian papyrus, however, was that it became a valuable commercial product that was exported throughout the known world. ...

"Papyrus was mostly used by scribes, who wrote with reed styluses, the ends chewed off into stiff brushes. Students studying to become scribes would begin with writing boards that were covered with a soft plaster that was erasable, just like Sumerian clay. You could simply pat the plaster down and start again. But an even more common implement that endured for centuries was the wax tablet, a board with a hollowed- out center that was filled with wax -- most likely



beeswax. In Assyria, such tablets have been found dating back as far as 80 BCE. They were extremely popular in ancient Greece and Rome, where the wax was black and the writing done with a metal stylus that was pointed on one end for writing and blunt on the other for erasing.

"The wax tablet was an important contribution to the written culture of ancient civilizations because it was the first widely used device for casual writing, intended for individuals other than scribes. Before wax tablets, anything that was written down had to be considered of great and enduring importance. But once there is writing, there arises a need for temporary writing -- a quick note to jot down and throw away the next day, an aid in calculating a math problem, a rough draft of a document that would later become permanent. All the other previous writing surfaces had been, for all intents and purposes, permanent. You could not bake a clay tablet to throw away the next day, or jot down something on an expensive scroll of papyrus and throw it away. And once something is literally carved in stone, it is figuratively 'carved in stone.' It can't be unwritten. The wax tablet, therefore, was the original Etch A Sketch for the ancient world. ...

"Sometimes several [wax] tablets would be bound together; in Latin this was known as a codex. The codex was the forerunner of the book, and while originally it referred to wax tablets, the word was later also applied to codices made of bound papyrus sheets, parchment, and eventually paper. But the codex was of limited use as long as papyrus, far better suited for scrolls, dominated. ...

"Eumenes, the ruler of the Greek city of Pergamum, also wanted to build a great library, but Ptolemy, not wanting a competitor, refused to export papyrus to him. According to Pliny, Eumenes, unwilling to abandon his grand plan, began searching for an alternative writing material, and in the next hundred years, the people of Pergamum learned how to soak animal hide in lime for ten days, scrape it, and dry it. The hides of young animals -- kid, lamb, and young gazelle -- were used, though the best material was that made from the skin of fetal animals. The flesh side of the hide was smoother than the fur side, and white animals produced the best quality skins. The skins were hung on a stretcher and scraped with a knife until they became smooth and hairless. After drying, they were further smoothed by rubbing with a stone.

"The new product was often called pergamum, after the city in which it was invented, and is still so named in some Latin languages, but is known in English as parchment. A particularly fine parchment made from calfskin is called vellum."

**Paper: Paging Through History**    Author: **Mark Kurlansky**

Publisher: **W. W. Norton & Company**

**Copyright 2016 by Mark Kurlansky**    **Pages 9-14**

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***Sound familiar?***

**How Vast Amounts of Land Have Been Stolen From African Americans**

*teleSUR*

Excerpt: "During that century, so often touted as being a groundbreaking Black civil rights movement, some 600,000 Black farmers were forced off their lands."    **READ MORE**

## **Brand Name Scholarships**

**June 22, 2017 2:44 PM by Susan Dutca**

**Everyone knows big-name companies such as Google or Coca-Cola...but did you know that these companies also offer scholarship opportunities to help you pay for college?**

**Dr Pepper Tuition Giveaway**      **Deadline: October 17**      **Maximum Award: \$100,000**

**Burger King James W. McLamore WHOPPER Scholarship**      **Deadline: December 15**  
**Maximum Award: \$50,000**

**Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Scholars Award**      **Deadline: January 18**  
**Maximum Award: \$1,000**

**Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Science Competition**      **Deadline: February 1**  
**Maximum Award: \$10,000**

**Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation**      **Deadline: October 31**      **Maximum Award: \$20,000**

**Horatio Alger National Career & Technical Scholarship Program**  
**Deadline: Varies**      **Maximum Award: \$2,500**

**Penguin Publishing Group's Signet Classics Student Scholarship Essay Contest**  
**Deadline: April 21**      **Maximum Award: \$1,000**

**Wells Fargo CollegeSTEPS Sweepstakes**      **Deadline: June 30**      **Maximum Award: \$5,000**

**Google Lime Scholarship for Students with Disabilities**      **Deadline: December 6**  
**Maximum Award: \$10,000**

**Dell Scholars Program**      **Deadline: January 15**  
**Maximum Award: \$20,000 (plus a laptop and textbook credits)**

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As previously reported & circulated from 88.1 KPPP-LP FM Radio Fargo-Moorhead - A Mexican Crossing Lines - Cindy Gomez-Schempp w/ Duke Gomez-Schempp, June 21, 2017

Falsely charged & imprisoned in Morton Co., ND for 6+ months, Oglala Lakota Water Protector, Kathleen Bennett is out on bail, but with ridiculously strict "conditions", while she awaits a jury trial there. [Possibly, October/November 2017]

Kathleen Bennett is not yet reunited with her 82-yr-old Mary Trujillo, nor her son, Russell Vazquez, whom are living together in another state.

<https://www.facebook.com/KPPPRadio/> THIS

NEW SHOW WILL SOON BE UPLOADED TO [KPPPFM.COM/](http://KPPPFM.COM/) ARCHIVES TOO: THIS

June 30, 2017-"Getting to Know Kathleen Bennett"- 88.1 KPPP-LP FM Radio

Fargo-Moorhead-A Mexican Crossing Lines- Cindy Gomez-Schempp w/ DukeGomez-Schempp- Exclusive off-camera interview with Kathleen Bennett is emotionally moving, yet spirited!

Sorry, no 'spoilers'; you must hear Kathleen tell her story! I have too much respect and love for Oglala Lakota Warriors Kathleen Bennett, her mother, Mary, and son Russell!

#JUSTICE! #FreeKathleenBennett! Reunite Kathleen with her family! We all need to demand Morton-Burleigh Co., ND, DISMISS WITH PREJUDICE[Meaning "Dismiss Forever"] their LUDICROUS, PATENTLY FALSE CHARGES,NOW!Â Â Â

ALL Kathleen Bennett Stories onÂ [www.kpppfm.com](http://www.kpppfm.com)Â Â from January 8, 2017 to June 24, 2017 in

Descending Order: Â A Mexican Crossing Lines -**Compiled Story Links Related To Kathleen Bennett**

An 82 Year Old Lakota Elder was Kidnapped by St. Alexis Hospital in Bismarck ND, while her Daughter was arrested... | |

<http://kpppfm.com/podcasts/a-mexican-crossing-lines-compiled-story-links-related-to-kathleen-bennett/>

<https://www.facebook.com/KPPPRadio/>

You can help bring justice for Kathleen and reunite her and Mary withtheir family by giving a donation to be used for legal expenses:[https://cash.me/\\$RussellVasquez](https://cash.me/$RussellVasquez)

Any amount helps and is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for your support. Support Independent MediaKPPP-LP FM is a project of The People's Press Project. All Donations are

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566-0917 Leave an up to 3 min. message and a call back

number.EMAIL:[Cindy@kpppfm.com](mailto:Cindy@kpppfm.com)[Duke@kpppfm.com](mailto:Duke@kpppfm.com)

TWITTER: Cindy Gomez-Schempp@Media\_PPP

<https://www.facebook.com/FreeKathleenBennett/> [\[Community Facebook\]](#)

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**[Canada's Indigenous Resist 150 Years of Colonization, Genocide](#)** *teleSUR*

Excerpt: "While the Canadian government spends a half-billion dollars on celebrations for 'Canada 150,' Indigenous organized events and protests are standing in steadfast rejection of

Canada's legacy of colonization and dispossession."

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from Dee Numa

## Hazel Quinn



Hazel was born in Wellington on August 7, 1899 in her home. She lives with her husband Frank and granddaughter Rosie Pitts. Hazel had five sisters and three brothers all older than her plus six children.

Asked if she went to school Hazel said "No, my grandma won't let me!" She was going to go to school in Aurora. When she wasn't learning Hazel was going to take care of her teacher's children, but her grandma held her back.

At the age of six Hazel started working. Her first job was for a woman called "Old Lady Dixon." Hazel said "I stand on a box; wash dishes!" She also swept the floor and was paid fifty cents a day; \$3 a week. At the age of seven Hazel started working real hard at a big laundry helping her sister. She ironed the clothes her sister had washed. Hazel earned big money then, a dollar a day, which her sister gave to her. From then Hazel worked for people who wanted washing, ironing and house cleaning done. She earned a \$1.50 a day for her work.

Hazel spoke of her parents Maggie Wilson and Blind Bob Robert. She said "even if her father couldn't see he could still write his name." Hazel said her father and a man named Tom Mitchell could have gone to New York to go to school. But Blind Bob's father told him no. Hazel's father was going to go but his friend got scared and ran away. So Hazel's father, didn't go because he wanted his friend to go with him.

Hazel and her family still live at the Campbell Ranch which was one of the first families to start farming the Yerington Paiute Tribe's Campbell Ranch. They suffered through many hardships but with the help of relatives her family has endured.

**Mayleen Sam**

## [Oil Companies Are Just Not That Into Keystone XL](#)*Grist*

Excerpt: "The pipeline's operator, TransCanada, is struggling to track down oil producers and refiners who want to invest in transporting crude oil from Canada to the United States."

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**Norm  
Harry**  
Good morning everyone! I found this photo on the RGJ website of mom offering th opening prayer, followed by my prayer song at the opening ceremony of Artown this past Saturday evening.

Dennis Eugene Castillo

You will be missed, thanks for so many memories and so much love, you will be for ever in my heart Aunt Clara....

