

Journal #5357 from sdc 12.15.22

Shoshone Woman teaching the next generation how to make baskets. Circa 1934

@One experts create immersive Hidden Cave VR experience

Boy who got new heart inspires tribe to boost organ donation

from Hoopa Tribal Fire Department and Office of Emergency Service:

Pope's visit

Non-Natives not knowing headdresses are earned is why Native history needs to be taught in school

Standing Holy

Native Organizers Alliance/ Yankton Sioux Tribe/Brave Heart Society build model of governance



[Dee Numa](#) [Shoshone Woman teaching the next generation how to make baskets. Circa 1934](#)

(One of my very favorites from his collection.)

December is always file-cleaning time and I found the following that I don't think got published way back in August. Even if it is a repeat, it is a good reminder. Enjoy. sdc

@One experts create immersive Hidden Cave VR experience

The VR experience was created in collaboration with the Churchill County Library and Churchill County Museum.

[Education & Public Service](#) | October 07, 2021

Jill Stockton

Daniel Fergus, pointing at the camera, shows Maryan Tooker and Luka Starmer a section of the Hidden Cave archeological dig site the @One Digital Media Team would be photographing for the 3D modeling portion of the Hidden Cave Virtual Reality experience.



For the first time ever, users of the Churchill County Library and visitors of the Churchill County Museum can experience the culturally and historically significant Hidden Cave site located in Fallon, Nev., like never before – in Virtual Reality (VR). Hidden Cave is located in the Grimes Point National Register Historic Site. The University Libraries' @One Digital Media Team worked in partnership with Carol Lloyd, director of the Churchill County Library, to design and develop a VR-based, immersive and accessible experience highlighting the wonders of Hidden Cave. Lloyd reached out to the Libraries because she said she was confident in the @One Digital Media Team's ability to create this type of innovative project.

The @One Digital Media Team has a well-known and well-respected reputation for creating exceptional multimedia and VR projects for both the University community and local northern Nevada community. The [Reno Street Art](#) project, VR-based Basketry Museum and the '[Walking With Reality](#)' documentary are a few of the projects that have put this team on the map.

"I knew we had to partner on this project!" Lloyd said.

After exploring the idea to use VR to document and preserve Hidden Cave, the @One, Churchill County Library and Churchill County Museum formally partnered to secure grant funding for the project through the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records.

A sizeable grant of approximately \$100,000 was awarded to the Churchill County Library late Spring 2020 and the VR project was completed in September 2021.

Hidden Cave: A culturally symbolic site for the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Hidden Cave is culturally symbolic to the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe. It is a site viewed as a sacred place of

importance worthy of preservation. It is also of interest to non-tribal people. One of the project's goals was to build a better understanding of Native culture.

“We created the experience with empathy in mind,” Acting Manager of Digital Media Checkout and Multimedia Specialist Luka Starmer said. “We wanted the experience to give context from the Indigenous perspective in addition to the scientific archaeological point-of-view.”



Luka Starmer works to capture the perfect 3D scan of one of Dat So La Lee's baskets for viewing in VR. The physical basket can be viewed at the Nevada Historical Society. He added, “Collaborations like this tend to strengthen and deepen existing relationships outside of the walls of our Libraries. This is the type of project helps us grow even more meaningful contacts in our Nevada community.”

Starmer said the team was interested in putting users of the VR experience in the shoes of Indigenous people who have used Hidden Cave for thousands of years.

What is Hidden Cave?

The cave itself was formed approximately 21,000 years ago by the waves of rising Pleistocene Lake Lahontan. It was in use intermittently by the Indigenous people on these lands over the last 4,000 years. The site was never lived-in but was believed to be a place for storage year after year for items used for hunting, fishing, basketry, and other belongings. Archaeologists liken it to the way we use an attic or a garage in modern times.

It was rediscovered in the 20th century in the 1920s by four school-aged boys. Hidden Cave has been excavated three times by archaeologists – once in 1940, again in 1951 and finally a large excavation led by the American Museum of Natural History in 1979-80 that helped shape the understanding the geological formation and Indigenous uses of the cave.

Many of the artifacts found in Hidden Cave were unbroken and arranged in concentrations known as caches. These caches reveal technological and cultural practices of the people thriving on these lands long before white settlers arrived.

Today, more than 3,000 people visit Hidden Cave annually with a majority of visitors traveling from outside Churchill County, primarily from Nevada but including national and international visitors. The dirt trail to Hidden Cave is a steep up-hill hike approximately one-half mile from the parking lot and requires navigation of a short four-foot entrance. This is difficult for people with mobility restrictions.

“Since time immemorial Northern Paiute have inhabited the area known as Lahontan Valley and specifically Hidden Cave,” Former Tribal Chairman for the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe Len George said. “Even though it is against our teachings to visit known burial sites the Tribe is committed to protecting this site. We worked together over the duration of the project advising the team of the proper handling of objects and artifacts. We shared our cultural knowledge and history as it pertains to this project in order to help with further learning and future programming to help grow new knowledge about this important historical site.”

Why use Virtual Reality?

Because of the extremely fragile nature of Hidden Cave, VR was the medium selected for the project. The VR experience, a fixture at the Churchill County Library, Churchill County Museum and Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe - Community Learning Center, helps bring new educational content to the community while helping to normalize VR technology across a wider audience.

Because VR is an active medium, users must explore and interact with the digital assets and environments in front of them, spurred by their own inquisitive nature.

The @One Digital Media Team helped consult on the construction of three VR kiosks that are located in Fallon. The high-tech kiosks beckon use from users of all ages. Users navigate the experience using a VR headset and hand controllers paired with a high-end gaming computer. The virtual environment and 3D objects are as life-like as digitally possible, given 21st century developments in computer processing and technology.

“The VR experience incorporates archaeological, cultural and natural history points of view in a way that is captivating, experiential and interactive,” Mark Gandolfo, retired director of Digital Media Technology for the University Libraries said. “Users are able to closely interact with and examine artifacts, geological stratigraphy and the general cave environment. Additionally, video, audio and interpretive text panels are incorporated to highlight and draw attention to both the archaeological and Native American cultural contexts present in the Hidden Cave narrative.”

How was the experience created?

Six @One Digital Media Team members, along with @One VR developer Hadi Rumjahn, worked together to build the final VR product. By utilizing modern game engine programming and assets created by the team, Rumjahn was able to design an interactive VR experience incorporating storytelling, 3D objects, audio elements and more.



A digital rendering of the interior of Hidden Cave explorable in the VR experience developed by the @One Digital Media Team.

The team spent four days on location utilizing LiDAR technology and photogrammetry to capture imagery of the interior and exterior of Hidden Cave.

“When you are working with a project of this scale there is a constant balancing act taking place where we must optimize data in order for it to run on a consumer grade computer and headset while keeping a high-level of integrity for the environment and objects,” Interim Director of Digital Media Technology Daniel Fergus said. “Capturing Hidden Cave in both LiDAR and photogrammetry we utilized the strengths of both techniques in building an accurate yet optimized viewing experience. This, along with the game engine programming used by Hadi, users can simply put the headset on and go on an intuitive and user-friendly simulated adventure inside historic Hidden Cave!”

Additionally, members of the team visited the Churchill County Museum and Nevada State Museum more than six times to 3D-scan approximately 40 Hidden Cave artifacts held within the museum collections

“Evidence exists confirming Hidden Cave was used as storage site around 4,000 years ago and as recently as 2,000 years ago,” Fergus said. “We knew different caching categories existed when we started the project, but as Luka began 3D-scanning different artifacts held by local museums, the team felt it would be exciting to bring a select sample of these artifacts into the VR experience.”



3D model of a sheep horn pendant artifact found in Hidden Cave. This artifact can be picked up, turned over and viewed from 360-degrees in the Hidden Cave VR experience.

While in the VR experience users can pick-up, hold and rotate things like spearheads, basketry fragments, matings made with tule and hand-made jewelry. This gives users a 360-degree view of the artifact they are interacting with. In a typical museum display, users must view artifacts from behind a glass case or a locked door.

The @One Digital Media Team was confident when they took on the project, but they had never captured an environment with the same obstacles present at Hidden Cave.

“Light is very important when using photogrammetry and this was by far the darkest environment we have attempted to capture,” Fergus said. “The team was determined to gather as much data as possible to allow users to visit parts of the cave traditionally not accessible to the public.”

Hidden Cave VR project helps foster the creation, sharing of new knowledge The Hidden Cave VR experience transcends the University Libraries and brings the Libraries into

new communities. Additionally, the project presented opportunities for the @One Digital Media Team to learn new skills and techniques for sharing within the University setting.

“Our team is always learning,” Fergus said. “We learn in advance and on-site. This experiential learning allows the team to take new knowledge gained through working on complex projects like Hidden Cave and share them with students and faculty across campus.”

Many of the techniques, theories and processes used to create projects like this trickle down into the University’s classrooms helping to foster the creation of new knowledge allowing students and faculty to incorporate cutting-edge technology and ideas into their course work or their research.

“The Hidden Cave project is about impact and possibility,” Fergus said. “We experiment on real-world projects with the end goal being to foster Discovery, Learning and Engagement across campus and within the community. Hidden Cave is a perfect example of how a good idea can lead to a great product which in turn creates opportunities for everyone to learn about or experience something new, in an innovative, memorable and refreshing way.”

About the University Libraries

The University Libraries embrace intellectual inquiry and innovation, nurture the production of new knowledge, and foster excellence in learning, teaching and research. During each academic year, the Libraries welcomes more than 1.2 million visitors across its network of three libraries: the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, the DeLaMare Science and Engineering Library and the Savitt Medical Library. Visitors checked-out more than 80,000 items and completed more than two million database searches.

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### **Boy who got new heart inspires tribe to boost organ donation**

<https://www.valleynewslive.com/2022/12/19/boy-who-got-new-heart-inspires-tribe-boost-organ-donation/>

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from Hoopa Tribal Fire Department and Office of Emergency Service:

Power Outage out temporarily today. Power restoration estimated for later this afternoon and as late as 9pm. Due to the 6.4 earthquake in Ferndale, CA that erupted around 0230 this morning. We are asking community members to please contact the OES hotline at 530-618-2995. If you notice any damage to the roads, water infrastructures, water line leakage, building infrastructures or homes. For more information regarding the earthquake, PGE outage and road conditions, please review the links below:

<http://seismo.berkeley.edu/seismo.real.time.map.html>

<https://pgealerts.alerts.pge.com/outagecenter/>

<https://roads.dot.ca.gov/roadscell.php>



[Jessica Gordon](#) ·

Her name is Si Pih Ko and she is a true Ogichidaa Kwe

“You are hereby served the spoken law, we the daughters of the great spirit and our tribal sovereign members can not be forced into law or treaty that is now the great law. We have appointed chiefs on our territories, govern yourselves accordingly,’ and then I turned my back on him and said ‘hiy hiy’ and I shook it off.”

“[Simon Bird](#) interpretation:

nohtāwīnān (our father), kanawīthīta (keep) kahkanātahk nitaskīnān (our land that is pure and clean) [side note, kahkanātahk, is a Cree word for turtle island/Canada],

ōma kahkanātahk nitaskīnān tāpwe (our land that is pure/clean, it is true/it is the truth)

ninanāskomon ōta kānewpihk (I am grateful standing here [difficulty hearing this part])

kītasōnamākiyik kekway kakī-kiskītamīk (you should know better than to be granting/sharing something)

niyanān kīci-okamāskwesis (we are the royalty)

ikī-kīcitipīthimisowāk (we were sovereign/we made our own laws)

mōtha kohtak ōta kakī-pīcikātew owathasowewin (there cannot be another law brought here)

kekā kīci-wathasowewin (that is not the great/true law)

kī-nawasōnāwak kīci-okimāwak (great leaders were selected)

kawathasowestamāsowāk (so we can make our own laws/to be sovereign)

ikosi

That’s it/thank you

Interpreted based on video. The speaker speaks dialects th & y sometimes mixed together. I don’t know the speaker but I’m confident this is 95% accurate. There’s one word that I couldn’t hear, she either says I’m grateful to be here, I am grateful to stand here, I am thankful to be standing here sliding to to strength or resilience it takes to stand there.”

Edit to share another:

“Thanks Kandi White for more clarity on this post:

First, she told the pope to take the headdress off. Social media sources said she sang a prayer song to the tune of oh Canada. [Smallboy Marie](#) shared: "the song she said in our language - our sacred space from the stars to whom we are connected as one; our sacred space to the stars, our truth." She also added "her words at the end were choppy n hard to understand; something something that was not theirs to give or transfer; and something something speak for your own selves." [Stephanie Ambroise](#) shared a rough translation of what she said at the end of the song. "she said something like - take your men and go home and right the wrongs of the past.....also she said that the land was clean and pure before the colonizers and the church came." "And that he should denounce the Doctrine of Discovery." Thank you both for sharing and helping to get the true story out there. It was a very brave and powerful thing for this woman to speak truth to power. [#WhyWeWearRED](#)"



Statement by Honourable Murray Sinclair on the Pope's Apology

For immediate release: July 26, 2022

WINNIPEG — The Honourable Murray Sinclair, former senator and chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) issued the following statement today:

“I want to recognize the importance of the Pope’s apology to Survivors, their families, and communities. For many Survivors, I know that hearing the words of contrition from the Pope was, and is, an essential factor in their personal recoveries and growth. My thoughts and prayers were with them as they listened.

When we set out Call to Action 58 in the TRC final report, the goal was always to have Survivors hear first-hand not only remorse but an acceptance of responsibility for what they were put through at the hands of the Church and other institutions.

Despite this historic apology, the Holy Father’s statement has left a deep hole in the acknowledgment of the full role of the Church in the Residential School system by placing blame on individual members of the Church. It is essential to underscore that the Church was not just an agent of the state, nor simply a participant in government policy, but was a lead co-author of the darkest chapters in the history of this land.

Driven by the Doctrine of Discovery and other Church beliefs and doctrines, Catholic leaders not only enabled the Government of Canada but pushed it even further in its work to commit cultural genocide of Indigenous peoples. In many instances, it was not just a collaboration but an instigation. There are clear examples in our history where the Church called for the Government of Canada to be more aggressive and bold in its work to destroy Indigenous culture, traditional practices, and beliefs.

It was more than the work of a few bad actors — this was a concerted institutional effort to remove children from their families and cultures, all in the name of Christian supremacy. While an apology has been made, that same doctrine is in place.

The Pope and the Church remain silent on the most problematic tenets of its belief system: that Indigenous peoples in Canada and worldwide should not have the right to practice their faith, cultures, and traditions.

Reconciliation requires action, not passiveness. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous

Peoples specifically calls for action to restore culture, beliefs, and traditions destroyed through past actions. Failure allows the destructive agency to live with the benefit of those past misdeeds. For the children and descendants of Survivors, it is not enough that you have stopped abusing them; you must act to help them recover and commit to never doing this again.

As the Pope continues his pilgrimage to meet First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Survivors this week,

I hope he will take this to heart. There is a better path that the Church and all Canadians can follow: taking responsibility for past actions and resolving to do better on this journey of reconciliation.

We must commit ourselves to talk to and about each other with respect.”

For more information: media@emdashagency.ca

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**Canada says pope's apology to Indigenous not enough (ABC)**  
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***Icymi:* Oglala Sioux Tribe Temporarily Suspends All Christian Missionary Work**
<https://news.yahoo.com/ogla-sioux-tribe-temporarily-suspends-000000248.html>
[Indigenous Civilization](#)



[Tracy Chrest](#) is with [Marla EL Harrison](#).

Non-Natives not knowing how headdresses are earned — is why Native history needs to be taught in school.

Once upon a time, only the best of us EARNED the right to wear a headdress (war bonnet.) And that was only after years of service and dedication and commitment to serving one’s nation (tribe.) — On and off the fields of battle. [Lakota Man @LakotaMan1](#)



This is a picture of **Standing Holy**, who is listed as Sitting Bull's daughter. It brings to mind the traditional Ojibwa style of parenting. The first time that Sitting Bull traveled and observed non-Native people spanking their children, he was shocked.

There was never a need to continually scold a child, belittle them, or strike them. They cuddled their children from birth to about seven because they believed crying wasn't good for children. Often, if a child did not stop crying, some grandmothers would cry along with them to help them get over whatever had made them sad.

At an early age, they begin to take on the responsibility of their clothing and bedding. Our people traveled with the buffalo and had to be mobile. By the age of 10, most of our children knew how to take care of the materials needed for travel.

Love, teaching, structure, and community raised our children.

Colonization tells us that physical discipline helps shape our children and turn our boys into men. Yet, without ever being spanked, we produced the greatest warriors that ever walked this land. Our lifeways and ceremonies through the different stages of life were more valuable than anything colonization offered.

BITE-SIZED PD

"A low-lift, high-impact shift I've made in my classroom is starting every class period by asking 'How are you all doing today?' It helps me judge the energy of the room. I have altered plans on the fly in response.

Students often tell me I'm the only one who asks, and they value it."

—TEACHER NORA WALSH

#T2T

Native Organizers Alliance is on the ground in White Swan, South Dakota, supporting grassroots leaders facing a climate and infrastructure crisis.

In partnership with the Yankton Sioux Tribe and a traditional Dakota society of grandmothers, the Brave Heart Society, we are holding government agencies accountable for water pollution and restoring traditional Native practices of water and land management.

This campaign is part of a multi-year project called Mni Wizipan Wakan, The Sacred Bundle, working toward tribal-federal co-governance of the Missouri River Cultural Bioregion. We have been building community engagement in voting as part of increasing grassroots participation in the decision-making processes that affect the region.

And we've got to raise money to keep the project going with a full-time organizer on the Yankton Reservation.

For years, Native Organizers Alliance has been on the ground, supporting community leaders that have begun remediation of the lake on their own, and building a grassroots movement calling for remediation and protection of Lake Andes, the surrounding land, and nearby tribal housing made uninhabitable due to dangerous mold.

Together, we are indigenizing water policy by building models of governance in balance with the natural world.

Hawwih (thank you in Caddo), Judith Le Blanc (Caddo), Executive Director



[Posted by Carol Wright](#)