



**FIG 1: Above:** Short story winners Emoni Smith (left) and Kayllion Lewis. **Upper Right:** Ms. Skeet reading to the turnout. **Lower Right:** The great writing celebration.



## Short Story Writing Contest

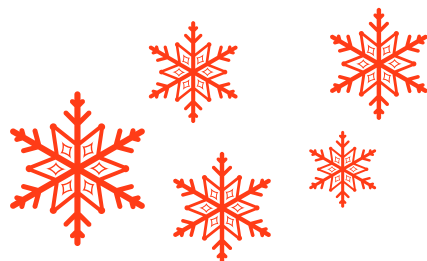
In October librarian Charlotte Dominquez organized the Great Writing Contest for our students. On October 30 a celebration was held in the library to announce the writing winners, feast on diverse snacks, and dress up in Halloween costumes. During the celebration Ms. Skeet read the chilling story “A New Commer to the Camp”. Three students were recognized for their stories:

- Emoni Smith (Horror/Thriller)
- Kayllian Lewis (Romance/Drama)
- Kyra Harrison (Comedy/Satire)

The winners received an award certificate (Fig. 1) a Halloween gift bag, and participated in a Barnes and Noble shopping trip.



**FIG 2: Left:** Teachers Dana Slawsby (sitting) and Cindy Beeshligai (screen) prepare for a Zoom meeting.



## From The Editor

Educational research has shown that parent-teacher conferences benefit students by improving their academic progress, accountability, and emotional development. These conferences can also lead to better communication between parents and the school. Our annual parent-teacher conference was held at Sherman on October 20, 2023 (Click [HERE](#) to see Principal Ortiz’s address to parents). Unfortunately, some concerned parents could not attend our annual meeting due to work, time, or travel constraints. To accommodate these parents Sherman held its first ever virtual parent-teacher conference. The event was organized by teacher Dana Slawsby and held on November 7 and 8, 2023. (Fig. 2) Teachers and parents were scheduled in discussion groups during these days on the Zoom platform. Our first virtual conference was successful and might be used again next year.

Click on the YouTube link below to access our library of Sherman videos. You can also view these videos by clicking on the links provided within the information box on the last page of this newsletter.





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**FIG 3: Upper Left:** A description of Serena’s winning hotcakes entry. **Lower Left:** Serena with the other student winners, officials, and judges. **Above:** Serena combining maple berry sauce to her hotcakes.

## Culinary Winner Serena Kerl

Recently at California State University Pomona culinary student Serena Kerl placed in the top three among 36 student entries in the Norm’s Hotcake Topper Competition. Her winning entry was a Wojapi inspired spicy maple berry pork belly hotcake (Fig. 3). First place in this competition will be announced at the State Prostart Culinary Cup in Long Beach on February 2024. The winning hotcake entry will appear in Norm’s menu.

## Proverbs

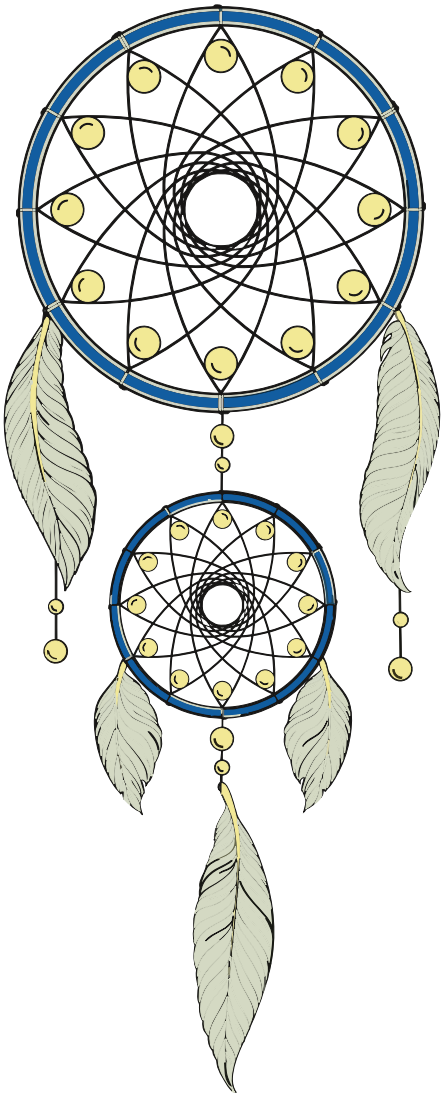
*Those who have one foot in the canoe and one foot in the boat are going to fall in the river.*  
Tuscarora

*Don't bargain for fish which are still in the water.*  
Anonymous

*When you see a new trail or a footprint you do not know, follow it to the point of knowing.*  
Anonymous

# Sherman Braves Basketball 2023

The Sherman Braves basketball teams opened their 2023/24 season with Head Coach Brandon Cryder at the Helm. With Coach Cryder and his dedicated veteran coaching staff of Tom Lewis and Eric Begay along with their motivated student athletes it promises to be an action-filled season. You can follow Sherman basketball this season on Maxpreps. Click [HERE](#) to go to Maxpreps. Click [HERE](#) to meet the coaches and some varsity players and watch our Sherman varsity and junior varsity teams practice.



## Infrastructure

What makes a high school great? Undoubtedly an effective principal, motivated teachers, parental involvement, diverse rigorous academic classes, extracurricular activity opportunities, and a positive and respectful student body are important. However, often overlooked in this conversation are the school's support areas – the infrastructure – that maintains the smooth daily operations of a school. At our unique off-reservation residential high school we are fortunate to have an effective infrastructure that complements our daily routines. Our vital school support areas are presented below:

### Information and Technology

For computer technology questions our staff and students turn to IT specialist Rick Kossoris for answers. (Fig. 6) Rick provides support for all hardware, software, and application issues.

### School Custodians

Our four custodians keep our classrooms and buildings safe and clean and perform other maintenance and repairs as required. (Fig. 4)

### Library

Our charming library is an important place to find information and to discover the joy of reading. Our school librarian is Charlotte Dominquez. (Fig. 4) Besides maintaining and upgrading the library's resources she coordinates various activities during the year as the Great Writing Contest and the Poetry Slam. She is also the sponsor of the Craft Club.

### Food Services/Cafeteria

Each day manager Lisa Rivera and her four team members provide the daily food energy requirements for our physically and academically developing students. (Figs. 4,5,6)

### Business and School Support

Our business specialist is Celestina (Tina) Torres, the receptionist is R. (Britt) Lomax, the attendance coordinator is Eric Begay, and the registrar is Dayna Alderman. (Fig. 5,6)

### Facility Management

Manager Billy Pewo oversees eleven facility employees who maintain and upgrade our buildings and services and manage the campus landscape and athletic fields. (Fig. 5)

### Guards

Our federally operated facility contracts with Bedrock Securities, LLC to monitor and restrict the flow of people into and out of our campus. Currently there are four guards that work 24/7 shifts. One of the guards is Scotty Paulson who has worked on the Sherman campus for 20 years. Interestingly, at one time before becoming a guard Scotty was an academic technician at Sherman. (Fig. 6)

### Recreation

There are six people in this department. Recreation schedules various student recreation and sporting events on and off campus, arranges students trips to stores, plans movie nights on campus and aids other departments when needed. (Fig. 4)

### Home Living/Dormitories

Home living specialist Tara Sherlock heads this department. Her home living staff cares for, counsels, and interacts with students in the dormitories. The dorm staff serve as the big brothers and sisters to many of our Sherman students. (Figs. 4,5)

### Clarke Cultural Center

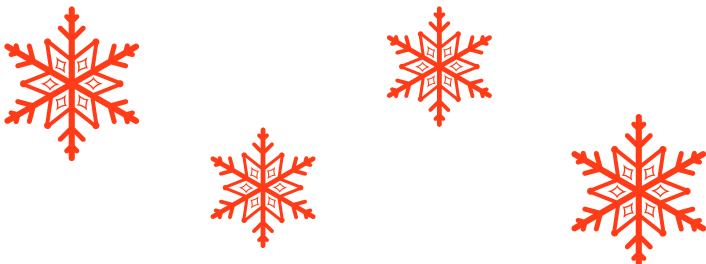
The center is directed by tireless educator Lorene Sisquoc and offers many diverse Native cultural activities, events, and trips for our students throughout the year. The center has recently provided our students with talking circles, evening student Pow Wows, Daughter of Tradition meetings, a basket weaving workshop, guitar lessons, and helped facilitate the on-campus appearances of notable Native American rappers Lindsay Knight and Tall Paul.

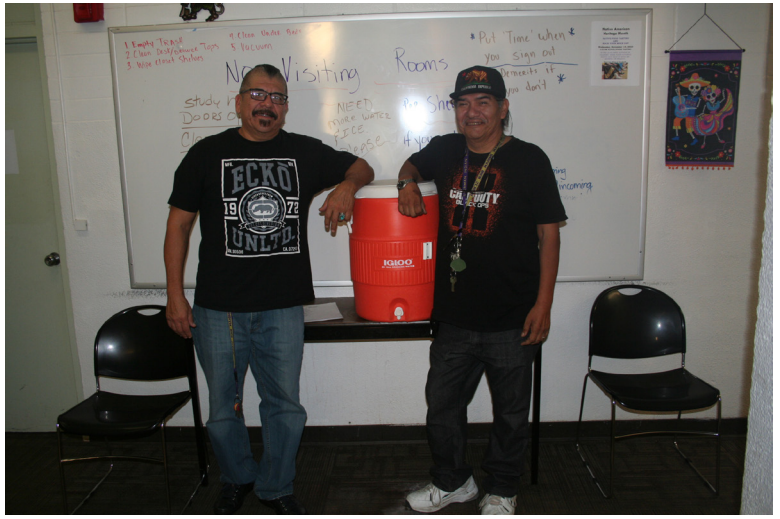
### Indian Health Services/Clinic

Interestingly, in 1910 the Indian Office authorized \$15,000 for the construction of a state of the art two-story medical and surgical hospital for the Sherman campus (Fig. 8). By 1912 the hospital was in operation and provided care not only to Sherman students and employees but occasionally to Native Americans living around the area. In 1907 physician Mary Israel arrived at Sherman and eventually started a comprehensive school nursing program. Sherman nursing students aided surgeons during school operations and for additional training students were assigned to the Riverside Community Hospital. In 1955 the United States government established the Indian Health Services (IHS). The IHS has been at Sherman for many years offering our students culturally acceptable health services. Today our campus IHS clinic is comprised of Nurse Practitioner Teresa Timms and Registered Nurse Joan Gaerlan. They offer students clinical services during the weekdays. (Fig. 5)



**FIG 4:** *Top Left:* Librarian Charlotte Dominguez. *Top Right:* Custodian Dianne Navarro begins her tour of duty. *Middle Left:* Debbie Monroe (driving - homeliving) and Veronica Vallier (recreation) transporting items around campus. *Bottom Right:* Mark Neumann of the recreation department. *Bottom Left:* Richard Aguilera's goal is spotless trays.





**FIG 5: Top Left:** Attendance coordinator Eric Begay. **Top Right:** Anna Calzada preparing vegetables for dinner. **Middle Left:** Registrar Dayna Alderman. **Middle Right:** Ramona home living assistants John Garcia (left) and Darwin Mullen. **Bottom Left:** Facility members Donna Jensen (left) and Maurice Walker repairs a dysfunctional door lock. **Bottom Right:** The IHS clinic team of Teresa Timms (standing) and Joan Gaerlan.





**FIG 6: Top Left:** Sabrina Calzada slicing bacon at the cafeteria. **Top Right:** Guard Scotty Paulson volunteers to maintain the gorgeous flowers next to the guard shack. **Middle Left:** Only a few seconds of free time for business specialist Tina Torres. **Bottom Right:** IT specialist Rick Kossoris. **Bottom Left:** Food service manager Lisa Rivera.





## Native Food Tasting

This year President Joe Biden and the United States Senate proclaimed November 2023 as Native American Month. In recognition of this proclamation Chef John Moreno and his Pathways culinary students organized a Native food tasting event on November 15. At the event Sherman Students and Staff were presented with remarkable sensory experiences as they savored diverse Native foods ranging from bison chocolate chili and rabbit pazole to blue corn mush, chayote slaw and tepary beans to wojapi blueberry syrup, pine nut butter, and mesquite cookies. (Fig. 7)



**FIG 7:** *Top Left:* Culinary students cooking vegetables for the tepary bean dish. *Top Right:* What's your pleasure - rabbit pazole?. *Bottom Left:* Students preparing fried bread in the culinary kitchen. *Middle Right:* Samples of tevit - pine nut butter. *Bottom Right:* The menyakish mesquite cookies were tasty.





**FIG 8: Left:** An early picture of the Sherman Campus Hospital. **Right:** Sherman physician and nursing program coordinator, Mary Israel, with four of her nursing students.



# Happy Holidays



**THE SHERMAN TIMES**  
is a digital publication that is  
linked to YouTube and provides  
information on Sherman Indian  
High School.  
WEB: [Sherman YouTube Videos](#)  
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**MISSION STATEMENT**  
The Sherman Community empowers Native  
students through opportunities to find their  
purpose at school and in life.  
MIND • BODY • EMOTION • SPIRIT  
Educating Native American youth since 1903