



FIG 1: Above: An entry point into a Sherman tunnel by the cafeteria. Upper Right: An old fall-out shelter sign on the Pathways building. Lower Right: Outside stair entrance to the Sherman fall-out shelter.



National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) is a national organization for high schools in the USA and its territories. The goal of the NHS is to encourage and promote the development of outstanding high school students. In our Sherman Indian High School NHS chapter applicants are screened and approved by our NHS committee. After becoming members students must maintain a 3.2 GPA and serve as campus role models in leadership, service, and character. Members must also participate in community service. This year we have eight NHS members. Noteworthy are the achievement of two members; Lacey Whipple, our reigning Ms. Sherman, and Nikki Crisostomo, nationally selected with eight other high school students to serve on the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) LEAD Student Advisory

Group. In the first NHS educational trip of the year sponsor and Fine Arts teacher Monica Royalty and members visited the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservatory to learn about the important but fragile wetlands around Huntington Beach. While at the wetlands members helped plant native wetland species. Later all enjoyed the surf at Huntington Beach. Click [HERE](#) to meet our 2023/2024 NHS members.



From The Editor

During my first years at Sherman I was told about ancient underground passages beneath under our campus. According to Sherman lore these passages used to meander endlessly and even linked up to underground off-school tunnels. It was believed by some that a person could use these tunnels and walk miles underground to downtown Riverside. Other tunnel stories that I heard were outright bizarre.

The Sherman tunnel system did exist. It is possible some tunnels might have been used to route utilities such as steam to places around campus. Since the utilities were not buried underground these tunnels allowed workers to easily maintain the utilities and make quick repairs when problems arose.

In the late 1960s and 1970s new buildings were erected and Sherman's curriculum and facilities were modernized. As the old buildings were torn down the tunnel system was gradually filled in or sealed off. However, some parts of the tunnels still exist today. For example, underground tunnels can be found under the campus dormitories. A newer roundish concrete service passage can be accessed in the base-
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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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ment of the cafeteria (Fig. 1). The tunnel is about six feet in width with service pipes transversing through the tunnel. Another tunnel segment is located beneath the Pathways building and the Clarke Cultural Center. This section can be accessed from outside the Pathways building or inside from several classrooms. This passage is different from the tunnel found at the cafeteria. Pathways Construction Instructor Brian Hayden has noted that this tunnel has several construction similarities to tunnels found below Riverside's National Historic Landmark Mission Inn. The tunnel is rectangular in shape and constructed from bricks and concrete. It is about eight feet below the outside ground level and runs parallel beneath buildings for about 150 to 200 feet. The tunnel breaks into three large rooms along its route. Along the passage sides are smaller rectangular shaped rooms. At the top of the rooms and the tunnel at ground level windows are present. One end of the tunnel continues toward Magnolia Avenue to destinations unknown and the other end continues in the direction of the inner campus buildings. Access to these extended routes have been sealed off. It is likely the tunnel rooms were used by campus facility workers, students, or staff. I vividly remember many years ago seeing numerous student desks, books, and school equipment in these rooms.

As the cold war tensions between the United States and Russia heightened in the 1950s and 1960s nuclear war became a possibility. In 1961 President John Kennedy urged American families to construct home fallout shelters for protection in the event of a nuclear bomb exchange between the United States and Russia. It was during this time that the tunnel section beneath the Pathways building became a designated fall-out shelter for Sherman students. For many years a vintage 1950s/1960s fall-out sign hung on the side of the Pathways building (Fig. 1). This bygone relic reminded all of this perilous time in American history.

Today the Sherman tunnel system has been long forgotten. However, the surviving tunnels are conduits to Sherman's past. Click [HERE](#) to join me as I walk through the tunnel beneath the Pathways Building.



FIG 2: Upper: Sherman students listen to pianist Connor Chee at the Idyllwild's Art Indigenous People's Day Celebration. **Lower:** Sherman students creating artwork with Paul Judd.

Sherman Students in Idyllwild

On October 9th over 40 Sherman students traveled to Idyllwild School of the Art's Indigenous People's Day celebration in Idyllwild, California. Our students were captivated by the wide variety of presentations and participated in workshops with Hopi hoop dancers/performers Derrick Suwaima Davis and Ryon Polequaptewa, Navajo pianist Connor Chee, Kiowa/Comanche artist Steven Paul Judd, Navajo film maker Ivey Camille Manybeads Tso, hoop dancers Sky and Talon Duncan, and fashion designer and entrepreneur Bethany Yellowtail (Fig. 2). Our students also experienced diverse indigenous foods for lunch that were cooked onsite and filled the mountain meadows with delectable aromas. The host teachers were Galene Townsend, Chef John Moreno, and Monica Royalty; all three hosts were recent Summer Program students at Idyllwild Arts.

Sherman Student Council 2023/24

Student councils or student governments have long played an important part of the high school culture. A council represents the interests of the student body by addressing student concerns and planning out and promoting campus events that boost school spirit and community building. Student council members strengthen their leadership and social skills by interacting with students, school faculty, and the local community. Our student council sponsor this year is counselor Stephanie McMorris. In October fourteen students were welcomed onto our student council. Our new student council officers include: Brandee Lewis, President; Autumn Lopez, Vice President; Marlie Ute, Secretary; Tate Semans, Treasurer; Danielle Hoaglen, Commissioner of Rallies/Spirit; Kyra Whitman, Commissioner of Activities/Events; Mary Sam, Commissioner of Public Relations; Daviana Woodman, Commissioner of Community Outreach/Services; Nikki Crisostomo, Historian; Julie Ortega, Member at Large; Lacy Whipple, Ms. Sherman; Vermeka Josay, 1st Attendant, Ms. Sherman; Elizabeth Cheama, Freshman Class Representative; and Kashtin Lizotte, Freshman Class Representative. Click [HERE](#) to listen to the speeches of all students who campaigned for student council and the Student Council Induction Ceremony that was held during our Parent Teacher Conference.

Lacy Whipple - Ms. Sherman 2023/2024

Last April at the Ms. Sherman Pageant Sophomore Lacy Whipple became our 2023/24 Ms. Sherman. Lacy is a member of the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians in Northern California. She is active in various campus organizations and sports teams and is a member of the National Honor Society. This school year she will represent our school at conferences, events, and cultural activities. Click [HERE](#) to meet Lacy.



Parent Teacher Conference

Our annual Parent Teacher Conference was held on October 20. Throughout the day parents and guardians met with Sherman teachers to discuss their child's progress. During a morning meeting Principal Delbert Ortiz gave parents a brief PowerPoint presentation on the status, progress, and requirements of our BIE school. The AVID, Pathways, and National Honor Society programs and the Indian Educational Grant were also discussed. Teachers introduced themselves to parents and the Student Council Induction Ceremony was held. At the meeting the Acoma-Laguna Buffalo Singers and Dancers from New Mexico performed the Buffalo Dance (Noteworthy, the two dancers that performed were former Sherman students). Later parents, students, and staff gathered at the school cafeteria for a special lunch prepared by Chef Moreno and his culinary students. This successful Parent Teacher Conference was organized by D. Slawsby, K. Clifford, and F. Charlie-Baugus. Click [HERE](#) to view the morning Parent Conference meeting. Click [HERE](#) to enjoy the Acoma-Laguna Buffalo Singers and Dancers performance.

Sherman FFA

The Career Pathways Program at Sherman Indian High School was started in 2012 through a grant provided by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. The goal of the Pathways Program is to provide our students with 21st century career technical skills. One of Pathways' educational areas is Agricultural Science. Ms. Desiree Trapp is the coordinator of this educational area. She is also the advisor of our Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter. This year our FFA program purchased breeder sheep and goats to produce livestock for our FFA members. Our FFA members will show and sell their livestock at the annual National Date Festival and Fair in Indio, California in February 2024. Click [HERE](#) to tour our goat and sheep pens and listen to FFA officers Walema Onix and Amerah Smith discuss their FFA experiences.

Indian Day Extravaganza

Indian Day was held on Friday September 22, 2023 in our school gymnasium to commemorate the strength, energy, and traditions of the indigenous people (Fig 3). During the school assembly our students and staff shared their Native clothing, showcased their many talents, and later feasted on Indian tacos provided by Ramona Dorm. The Indian Day coordinator and Master of Ceremonies was Lorene Sisquoc. Performances were given by the Kim Marcus Bird Singers and Dancers; the Painiktem Singers-Agua Caliente Cahuilla; Sherman's Storming Bear Drum Singers (Dominic Francisco, Lawrence Ramero, Derric Faustine, Romulus Pewewardy, Leevileon Ninnevo, and Christian Thomas) ; The Apache Boys Drum Singers (Trevin Goklish, Jiarah Perry, Chesiah Tessay, Roy Ethelbah, Conrad Colelay, Kendrick Crocker, and Gailherve Ethelbah); along with a Hoop Dancing demonstration (Kelilah Becenti- three years hoop dancing experience and Robert Lopez- beginner). For the first time during our Indian Day celebration a "War Cry" competition was also held (organized by teacher J. Hathaway). The contest was won by Juanique Bancroft. At the assembly individuals and organizations that volunteered precious time or supplies to our school were recognized. The Golden Eagle Award winners included:

- **Lighting of the Scared Fire, Native Women's Circle**
- **Yucca Valley Methodist Church** – Pastor Charlene Ryan and community
- **Native American United Methodist Church** – Pastor Greg and community
- **United Methodist Church of San Luis Obispo**
- **Moravian Church of Morongo** – Pastor Schafer and community
- **Spotted Eagle Native Community** – Peter Shorts and Benny Holleman
- **Thunder Cloud Clan** – Wayne Cortez, Martin Valdez, Joseph Saul, and Carlos Lamadrid
- **Autry Museum of the American West** – Amanda Wixon, Karimah Richardson, and Joe Horse Capture
- **Painiktem Bird Singers**
- Kim Markus
- **American Indian Chamber of Commerce** – Tracy Stanhoff
- Jamie Sandoval – **RezClassic**
- Sonia Lamas – **Lamas Housing Project**
- Joel Ortiz Manolo – **Jolinsky Welded Wall Art**
- Robert Hameick
- **Giving Children Hope**
- **NBA Association**
- **Assistance League of Riverside**

The Elka Menyl Award for supporting and advancing native culture and traditions to our students were presented this year to:



FIG 3: Above Top: Tribal Fashions on display. Above Bottom: Dancing at the Indian Day Celebration.

- Tara Sherlock
- Lisa Rivera
- Vernon Shattuck
- Debbie Monroe
- Gayle Johnson

Congratulations to all of the recognized individuals/organizations. Click [HERE](#) to view our Indian Day Celebration.

Proverbs

*A man is not finished when he's defeated.
He's finished when he quits.
Richard Nixon*

*The more you know the more you will trust
and the less you will fear
Ojibwe Saying*

*Only if you have been in the deepest valley,
can you even know how magnificent it is to be
on the highest mountain
Richard Nixon*



FIG 4: Above: The coastal waters off Del Mar, California. **Upper Right:** Students swim at a pristine stretch of coastal paradise (Del Mar). **Lower Right:** Camp Sherman at the Del Mar Beach.

Student Engagement, Belonging, and Retention

This year a committee (D. Slawsby, F. Charley-Baugus, and D. Carmelo) was formed to plan out enriching and enjoyable all-student body events. The purpose of these outings is to bring together new and returning Sherman students to promote a sense of belonging in our students to our Sherman community by socializing, learning, and having fun. These activities also provide students as well as staff with some needed mental down-time during the semesters. It is hopeful that these events might also result in a greater retention rate of Sherman students over the school year. To date our students have ventured to the Riverside AMC theater complex, the scenic beauty of the Del Mar, California Beach (Fig. 4) and to the Los Angeles Zoo. Student feedback from these excursions has been favorable.

A Special Lunch

The Pathways Culinary Program is coordinated by Chef John Moreno. Our culinary program is part of the BIE and BIA Indigenous Food Hub. The goal of the Hub is to introduce, educate, support,



and use healthy Native foods at schools, detention centers, and communities. During the parent teacher conference Chef Moreno and his culinary students along with school volunteers prepared a buffalo burger lunch in our school cafeteria for parents, staff, and students. The buffalo meat was supplied by the Cheyenne River Buffalo Company; this organization is operated by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Buffalo Authority Corporation in South Dakota. Listen to Chef Moreno describe the USDA Healthy Food Initiative and deal with a “stubborn” commercial mixer and observe our students and staff prepare lunch. Click [HERE](#) to watch this video, and also meet and hear from Mr. Gary Orme, our new Sherman educator.



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