

THE INDIAN LEADER

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

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The oldest Native American student newspaper

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Nakia Hendrick's 1000th career point.



Tristan Keah-tigh's 1000th career point. *Photos by Makayla Sloan.*

Final Buzzer Recap

Jared Nally

Feb. 28, 2020—Both Haskell Indian Nations University's men's and women's basketball teams heard their final buzzer for the season in their final games during the Association of Independent Institutions conference tournaments.

The HINU women's team came into the tournament as the fourth seed playing against fifth seed Wilberforce University. The game ended with an upset loss of 60-67. Team member Nizhoni Thomas led with 16 points for HINU.

Sixth seed HINU men's team faced up against third seed Lincoln College. Despite a 23-6 run over seven minutes by the HINU men, Lincoln College was able to secure a 74-61 victory. Bryon Elledge had the high point lead for HINU with 21 points.

Students from both the men's and women's teams received recognition at the A.I.I. conference banquet. For the women's team: senior Janee Bates received awards for "First Team All Conference" as well "Champions of Character", and freshman Odesa Begay received "Honorable Mention All Conference"; men's

team: senior Nakia Hendricks received "First Team All Conference", senior Bryon Elledge received "Honorable Mention All Conference", and junior Elias Her Many Horses received "Champions of Characters".

The season legacy by both teams includes a 12-17 win loss record by the women and a 16-13 record for the men.

Other notable moments over the season were Nakia Hendricks being recognized as an "A.I.I. Player of the Week". HINU also recognized its own athletes of the week which have included Ant-

won Winn and Justine Butterfield.

Through the course of the season, senior athletes Bryon Elledge, Nakia Hendricks, and Tristan Keah-Tigh each scored their 1000th career point. Elledge reaching this milestone against Langston University on Nov. 20 and both Hendricks and Keah-Tigh on Feb. 12 against Crowley's Ridge College, Hendricks first with Keah-Tigh following later that game.

We want to congratulate our student athletes on their seasons, victories, and recognitions, Onward Haskell!

Thinking of You

Jamie Colvin

News was passed along to the Haskell Indian Nations University campus that Interim President, Dr. Daniel Wildcat, experienced a medical emergency on February 16th causing worry and heavy hearts. The news came as a shock for many of the Haskell family and community.

Dr. Wildcat has been working at Haskell for over 30 years where he has taken on many roles, but his heart and mind resides as being a faculty member working with Native American students. The dedication Dr. Wildcat gave to the university has touched many along the way during the dura-

tion of his career at Haskell. Let us celebrate and rejoice this remarkable person as he is on the road to recovery. Please keep Dr. Wildcat and his family in your thoughts and send prayers as he strives to improve his health each day. As the new journey to recovery awaits him, we keep him close to our heart; Dr. Wildcat has always been a helping hand, encouraging person, and a positive friend.



Students Unite to Restore Native Languages

Jenna Makes Good

Learning your Native language can be scary, confusing, and seem hard to do. It is a problem that many students at Haskell Indian Nations University face. There is now a club that provides a comforting and fun environment to learn and speak with others. It is community based intertribal language learning. It's called the Indigenous Language Revitalization Club and they meet every Tuesday at 6:30 in the HINU library, near the language section.

The group has just begun, and there have only been a few meetings, but many ideas are in the process of unfolding. At the last meeting, everyone set learning goals. If someone had questions about how to begin learning their Native language, another would try to provide a helpful answer. The group intends to help those who desire to learn their language to identify resources and opportunities to speak. It is also meant to help current speakers find one another, in

order to communicate and network. Rissa Garcia, the student who started the club, emphasizes that self-motivation and daily use of the language is vital for achieving results.

Haskell is a diverse Indigenous university. There are numerous tribes and languages represented. Jared Nally, HINU Student, says that the group, "Aims to bridge the gap between the many languages and dialects at HINU." Nally describes why he desires to learn his myaamiataweenki language, "Language shapes how you interact with the world." Hayley Wells, HINU student, explains why she is interested in learning, "I want to learn Choctaw, partially out of a sense of responsibility. I feel honored to be Native, so I feel it should be my honor to preserve as much culture and heritage as I can." The club seeks to emphasize the presence of Native languages at HINU with activities like open mic night, storytelling, board games, and more. Indigenous Language Revitalization Club is a good interactive and comfortable environment to start learning how to speak your Native language on HINU's campus.

Student Success

Diamond Williams

Have free time between class, want some coffee or tea, or need to print something off for class, the Student Success Center(SSC) located by the main entrance in Sequoyah Hall has it all for you. They provide free coffee and tea, access to computers and free printing and have many free tutors that cover a wide range of subjects from tribal government, math, and environmental sciences.

The SSC is a great place to socialize and meet new people. There is also Retention Program Technician and Advisor, Laura Rice, on hand for students needing help with their education pathways or just wanting to talk.

Condolences

Jamie Colvin

There are no amount of words that can be expressed for the loss of our loved ones. Our Haskell's Alum and past employee Wekota "Koty" Crow Ghost, had been called home. Our deepest condolences for the immediate family and friends. Crow Ghost is an enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, an alumnus of Haskell Institute graduating in May of 1966

Student Spotlight

Diamond Williams

Lawrence local Zackary Towey, is a member of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, and Athabaskan from the south central Alaska. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science at Haskell Indian Nations University and plans of graduating this May.

Towey has participated in the Haskell Environmental Research Studies(HERS)program and has presented his research on the Menominee

Games are available at the SSC if you are just wanting to kill some time or there is a inside study room for those last minute study sessions before the big test. The SSC also gives you access to the Haskell food pantry where Haskell students may choose from a select number of donated food items and where donated school supplies are available as well. They even have calculators and charging cords that can be checked out. The Student Success Center is open to all students so don't be shy and stop by once in a while, and remember to bring your own reusable cup for coffee and tea to reduce waste, but don't worry if you don't, the center has cups on hand too.

with her Commercial-clerical certificate to later attend Sitting Bull College to graduate in 1976 with her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Not long after, Crow Ghost came to Haskell Junior College to work as a Residential Aide from 1990 to 2006. Currently, we ask to keep the family, close loved ones and friends in our thoughts and send prayers in that good way. Her spirit will not be forgotten.

Forest tree populations under the program at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. He is currently part of the Haskell-KU Exchange program taking classes at HINU and KU as well as working at the Student Success Center on Haskell campus as a mathematics and environmental science tutor.

Towey plans to pursue graduate school after Haskell and hopes to bring it home with a PhD. He hopes to come back in the future and be able to pass along his knowledge as a professor.

Away From Home

Delila Begay

Feb. 11, 2020—Twenty-four museum representatives visited Haskell Indian Nations University's Campus as a part of their training session. There were Museum Directors, Educators and Curators that met with five current Haskell students and one student from the University of Kansas. These reps took a tour of the campus and visited the Cultural Center and Navarre hall. They were here to learn more about the boarding school era and what the six students' knowledge about this important part of their history was. Dr. Anderson helped by showing these representatives around the campus and giving them a brief history powerpoint about Haskell's history.

The students were asked a wide range of questions about how to reach out to different tribal communities for help with the exhibit. Haskell was a part of the boarding school era and very much made an impact on the future generation. Now it is a Federal Institution which now gives Native students a start to further their college careers.

Dr. Anderson stated that the students did an exceptional job on answering the questions in such detail. Will this exhibit show how bad that era was? Yes, it will also tell the true stories of our ancestors and show how it has made Native people stronger than ever.

The exhibit was made possible by The National Endowment for the Humanities on the road which was adapted

from a permanent exhibition, *Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories*, organized by The Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. This exhibit has existed since 2000, but was first called *Remembering Our Indian School Days: The Boarding School Experience*. The exhibit was maybe possible by a group of Native scholars and individuals who either attended boarding schools or got information from their family members who were in the boarding school system. The Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) which is located in Kansas City, Missouri helps develop traveling exhibits. The M-AAA has helped the Heard Museum, in Phoenix, Arizona, develop it into a smaller traveling exhibit which also includes even more stories from all regions of the United States.

Six of the hosting venues are museums that are on college campuses'. Which will help to spread the stories to fellow college students. But each museum has a different way of reaching out to different Native tribes and students to get as much information and understanding as possible. Stephanie Seber, an Educator from Mid-America Arts Alliance stated, "Perhaps the briefest description of the goal of the *Away from Home* traveling exhibition is to share the very complicated history of off-reservation Indian boarding schools with broad audiences all across the country, by focusing on first-person accounts by survivors and alumni of the boarding schools."

The Pervasive Tragedy

Jenna Makes Good

Montana, January 20 – Around 10:30 a.m., less than a mile from an interstate rest area, the body of 16 year-old Selena Faye Not Afraid was found. According to USA Today, she had been missing since New Year's Day. The Billings Gazette previously reported that the preliminary autopsy revealed that Not Afraid had died from hypothermia. The state medical examiner also reported that she had no signs of violence or a physical struggle. Not Afraid's body was also found in an area that had been searched days before then by Big Horn County police and even FBI. Not Afraid was looked at as a positive, young girl who loved her family, sports, and animals. It is a tragedy she had to leave so soon. Students at Haskell Indian Nations University express how they feel about the recent tragedy in Montana and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) movement. Josh Garcia, who holds the title of

Haskell Brave, suspects some foul play "It is especially sad right now because they found her around the area where she was last seen. Whether the investigators had just missed the spot, or if someone had planted her there afterward, it is still heartbreaking for the family." Garcia also voiced his concerns for MMIW, "The issue, in general, is a common problem, not only in today's world but in the past, as well. Because we are natives and minorities, nobody wants to listen to us. And it has been happening for years, but I'm glad it gets coverage now because we haven't always had a voice."



A red dress hangs in Tommaney Library symbolizing MMIW
Photo by Jenna Makes Good

Haskell FY2021 Funding

Connor MacDonald

Early each year, usually in March or April, the president proposes a budget to Congress that details funding levels for the next fiscal year.

On February 10, President Donald J. Trump sent his new \$4.8 billion budget to Congress, which outlines several significant cuts to education spending. (Read more here.) The budgets of Haskell Indian Nations University, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), and the nation's many tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) potentially face a significant reduction in funding unless changes are made by Congress.

In its 2021 budget justification, the Bureau of Indian Education noted that both Haskell and SIPI made numerous achievements in student retention and success, yet they may face a combined \$4 million in cuts while other TCUs face an overall \$4.5 million reduction.

In response to this news, the Indian Leader reached out to Representative Sharice Davids' office for comment.

"While President Trump attempts to once again slash funding for tribal education programs, I stand with tribal students and leaders in rejecting this harmful budget proposal. I'm proud to have studied at Haskell, and I recognize the critical role that tribal colleges, universities and technical schools play in improving education access and outcomes for native students. I will continue to fight against these budget cuts and ensure we properly fund and support TCUs like Haskell."

Although there's little doubt that the president's 2021 budget will face major revisions over the next year it remains to be seen whether or not the political will to properly fund TCUs exists in Congress.

Coming Together

Jamie Colvin

As the new semester settles in, a tradition of celebrating the students, faculty, staff, alumni and native peoples throughout Indian country come together for the 2020 Haskell Welcome Back Pow-Wow.

On February 8th, Haskell Indian Nations University's campus greeted people near and far for the celebration. Artistic vendors, food vendors and informational booths were set up alongside the arena for the evening. Our Master of Ceremonies, Manny King, was the spokesperson for the evening for gourd dancing and the many

styles of dancing and singing taking place at the celebration. The host drum, Meskwaki Nation, was the center of the Introduction to the Grand Entry lead-in by Head Man, Troy Watterson, and Head Lady Jandra Levi, both currently attending Haskell. They were followed by the Haskell Veteran's Association representing the color guard.

This evening of togetherness and good medicine gathered approximately 750 people according to Manny King. If this was an evening you missed out on, come join us at Haskell for the Spring 2020 Haskell Commencement Pow-Wow on May 8th and 9th. We hope to see you there!



Head Lady Jandra Levi
Photo by Makayla Sloan

Artist Visits Haskell

Makayla Sloan

Steven Paul Judd is a Kiowa and Choctaw artist from Oklahoma. Through his work as a filmmaker, director, screenwriter, painter, designer, and digital creator he shows the youth of today the positive images of Native Americans that he did not see as a child. Today he is one of the most well known Native American contemporary artists.

Judd visited the Haskell campus to give a seminar about his work and accomplishments to a group of students then held an activity in the Library where, with students, he created a 6 foot tall mural of Haskell alumni and Olympian Bill Mills.

Story Telling with Alaska Club

Jared Nally

Stories of murder, redemption, fear, humor, and even the supernatural—Haskell Indian Nations University's Alaska Club partnered with Tommany Hall's library events staff to bring students a night full of the tradition of story telling.

Over 25 students, fed with frybread and akutaq, also known as Alaskan ice cream, settled down in a circle of bean bags and chairs ready for the stories to begin. Students from the Alaska Club shared traditional stories from their communities. Armando DeAsis, club president, told a Daklaweidí (his clan) story of Naatsilanei who carved and brought the Tlingit killer whales or keet to life, and fellow member Chyonne Buterin shared her traditional stories like how bears came to be.

The club encouraged other students to participate, among those was

Jared Nally recounting myaamia aalshoohkaana or winter stories one of which was why the Miami only tell stories when the frogs are asleep. Other students brought to life their experiences on and off Haskell with the supernatural.

Carrie Cornelius, dean of libraries, said it was just beautiful to have our people finding their voice and having a place to tell it.

Armando DeAsis, president of Alaska Club, said the reason they wanted to do this is to hear cultural stories from different tribes because it's exciting to hear equivalent stories from other others and to understand each other's ideas and culture's better.

The Alaska Club is looking at making story telling a regular event with the possibility of one or two more before the semester is over.

Black History Month Panel

Connor MacDonald

A group of students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Tommany Library on Thursday afternoon to attend an event celebrating Black History Month.

“A Conversation on Being Native American and Black” was sponsored by the Indian Leader and four students—Summer Powell, Autumn Powell, Lexci Kimball, and Dorian Daw—were asked if they would share some of their perspectives and experiences with the rest of the Haskell Indian Nations University community.

The panel's participants tackled issues that they've witnessed here at HINU and in their home communities. Some panelists spoke to the discrimination, stereotypes, and colorism they encountered growing up in predominantly Indigenous communities.

Closer to the end of the panel, the floor was opened to audience ques-

tions. When asked how they felt about some of their peers using the n-word, all four agreed that they found it offensive. Kimball said she found the term dehumanizing, while Summer Powell added that non-black people using the word is a form of cultural appropriation that Indigenous people should be able to relate to. Powell also suggested that in the future, she would like to see students at Haskell create a caucus for black students to discuss and address problems that they see on campus.



Photo by Diamond Williams

Domestic Abuse & Violence

Diamond Williams

According to WebMD, domestic abuse isn't always obvious to spot; many things can lead up to the violence. It can start simply with controlling a partner's mind and emotions to being physically controlling and violent.

Signs to be aware of:

- Being afraid of your partner/spouse
- Your partner/spouse bullies, threatens and controls you, accuses you of cheating, blames you for the abuse, criticizes you, tells you what to wear or how to look, threatens to kill you or a loved one, throws things or punches a wall when angry, or yells at you and makes you feel small
- Controls your money: Keeps cash and cards from you, makes you explain every dollar spent, or keeps

you from working or getting the job you want

- Your partner/spouse cuts you off from family and friends, keeps a close account of you, needs to know where you always are, or makes you ask for permission to see someone
 - Your partner physically abuses you; abandons you in unknown places; attacks you with weapons; keeps food, drinks and medical care from you; locks you in or out of the house; or punches, pushes, kicks, bites or pulls hair
 - Your Partner sexually abuses you, forces you into sex or sexual acts, makes you feel like you owe them sex, makes you dress or act sexual, refuses to wear condom or use birth control, or tries to give you an STD
- Some signs to spot abuse in others:
- Excuses for injuries
 - Personality changes like low self-esteem in someone who was always confident.
 - Constantly checking in with their

partner.

- Overly worried about pleasing their partner.
- Skipping out on work, school, or social outings for no clear reason.
- Wearing clothes that don't fit the season like long sleeves in summer to cover bruises.

Domestic Abuse Hotlines in the Lawrence community and national areas:

The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233).

Lawrence:

Haskell Health Center (785) 843-3750

The Willow Domestic Violence Center (785) 843-3333

Headquarters Counseling Center 24/7 Support (785) 841-2345 (Lawrence)

Protection From Abuse Order, the Clerk of the District Court at (785) 832-5256.

Suicide Prevention

Diamond Williams

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, these are a few warning signs for a potential suicide. If you or someone you know shows these signs please seek help or reach out to someone that can help.

- Talking about wanting to die or wanting to kill themselves
- Talking about feeling empty, hopeless, or having no reason to live
- Making a plan or looking for a way to kill themselves such as searching for lethal methods online, stockpiling pills, or buying a gun
- Talking about great guilt or shame
- Talking about feeling trapped or

feeling that there are no solutions

- Feeling unbearable pain (emotional pain or physical pain)
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Using alcohol or drugs more often
- Acting anxious or agitated
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Changing eating and/or sleeping habits
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Taking great risks that could lead to death such as driving extremely fast
- Talking or thinking about death often
- Displaying extreme mood swings, suddenly changing from very sad to very calm or happy
- Giving away important possessions

•Saying goodbye to friends and family

•Putting affairs in order, making a will

Suicide Prevention Resources on Haskell Campus, the Lawrence area, Kansas area, and National level.

On Haskell campus:

Angelina Adams- Counseling Center Stidham Rm 105 (785)830-2775

aadams@haskell.edu

Haskell Health Services, Medical Nurse Sebe (785)832-4867

Indian Health Services, Therapist Dawn Ready (785)312-2252

Lawrence Resources:

Community Mental Health:

-Bert Nash (785)843-9192 after 5pm connects with counselor after recording

-Headquarters, local talkers

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(785)841-2345

Kansas Resources:

Kansas Suicide Prevention direct line (785)841-2345

Online chat- kansassuicideprevention.org

Compassionate Ear Warm Line (913)281-2251

National Resources:

Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255

Text services, text "Life" to 1-800-273-8255

Online chat- suicideprevention-lifeline.org/chat

Crisis Text line, text "CONNECT" or "HOME" to 741741

1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)

1-866-Warm Ear (927-6327)

Dances with Wolves Review

Joe Singh

If you have seen James Cameron's "Avatar" then you have seen this movie, which only goes to show how unoriginal James Cameron is. Speaking of pretentious filmmakers, Kevin Costner is in this movie! He stars in and directs this movie. So it was his decision to show his bare butt so much. I find that disturbing just as I find many aspects and elements of this film. For the record, I do not consider this an Indigenous film.

This movie takes place during a time of invasion for Native Americans. The story focuses on an American

soldier who takes post on the frontier. The soldier, John Dunbar (Costner), is incredibly naive. My take on the character is that he is a man incredibly lost in himself and has no identity. He represents the faceless and apathetic American way of life. He finds himself lonely on the plains and sparks a friendship with a wolf, the Lakota people, and Mother Nature. He is transformed by the beauty of the Lakota way of life. He finds purpose and love on the vast plains of the Midwest before it was called the Midwest. The Lakota teach him their customs and viewpoints and eventually accept him as part of their tribe. By the end of the movie, John Dunbar is gone and his new Lakota persona, Dances with Wolves, emerges.

This picture does an amazing, I repeat AMAZING job of depicting early Indigenous life on the plains. The language is excellent to hear, the wardrobe is gorgeous, and the actors are at peak performance. The Indigenous cast of Graham Greene, Rodney A. Grant, Floyd Red Crow Westerman, and Tantoo Cardinal are Oscar-worthy. They bring the time period and personalities of the people to life. They do so well at depicting their characters that it makes me sad to know their eventual fate. Every shot in this movie is a work of art (with the exception of Kevin Costner's butt). The landscape is breathtaking. The days before assimilation are truly captured through the cinematography, lighting, and tone of this film.

I do not consider this an Indigenous film because it is a depiction of Indigenous people shown through the filter of colonizers. The Natives still get conquered. There is nothing anybody could have done about it. It was inevitable. That kind of story should not be celebrated. It is our responsibility as indigenous artists to create works that depict us truthfully and break the myth that we are extinct. We cannot go through traditional Hollywood to tell these stories. We must produce, market, and distribute them on our own. We do not need more Indigenous films, we need more films by Indigenous people, until then we are only the stereotype of the long-gone, long-haired, mystical beings of the past.

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker

Joe Singh

I liked this movie more than The Force Awakens or The Last Jedi, but just because something doesn't suck, doesn't mean it is good. "Jar Jar" Abrams is the king of making mediocrity seem like art. The movie is colorful, flashy, and sometimes cute, but there was not enough substance or coherency to satisfy me; I would rather watch the prequels quite honestly. My suggestion, watch The Mandalorian on Disney Plus instead, that show is awesome and scratches my Star Wars itch just right.

I have been disappointed by the new Star Wars trilogy. George Lucas had always planned to make episodes seven, eight, and nine. Without his influence, these movies have lost their identity. They feel like hollow shells that have replaced story-telling with propaganda. Questions are left unanswered, story arcs are abandoned, and a general disrespect for the franchise as a whole is felt. Star Wars: The Rise of Sky-

walker tries to remedy the effects of the previous film, The Last Jedi,, but only comes off as being fanfare and damage control. Do not get me wrong, there are some fun aspects to The Rise of Skywalker, but it is a classic case of too little too late.

Movie-goers, Emperor Palpatine is back! How or why is not fully explained, although we all know that Supreme Leader Snoke made no sense at all. They write him off, saying he was only a puppet for the Emperor. The Once defeated Emperor has assembled an army of star destroyers with planet destroying capabilities on the hidden planet of the Sith known as Exegol. This feels like damage control and in true Abrams form, the easy way out. Just bring back the villain from the other movies. Easy right? Except that by bringing back Shiev Palpatine, you negate the sacrifice made by Darth Vader in Return of the Jedi that redeems Luke's father as Anakin Skywalker. It is lazy, unimaginative, and lame. They do make the Emperor look pretty scary and cool though. On to our trio of heroes that were introduced in The Force Awakens.

I do not know why Finn, Poe, and Rey feel such a kinship for one another. It does not feel earned or genuine. They have no chemistry and are used only as "woke" stereotypes of the age. Finn hardly does anything except feel the force once in a while, Poe Dameron is still bland and pointless, and Rey is Emperor Palpatine's Granddaughter...sigh. They really screwed up the Rey character in The Last Jedi. Making her Palpatine's granddaughter is a Hail Mary play and a desperate one at that. I hate all three of these characters.

The First Order is transforming into the Final Order under the rule of once fallen Sith Lord, Darth Sidious. Kylo Ren is the new Supreme Leader, and wants to kill Emperor Palpatine so that his authority cannot be challenged. Kylo Ren's character arc was my favorite part of the movie. He becomes good. I enjoyed seeing Ben Solo emerge and help Rey defeat the Emperor, but it is short lived as he dies at the end. A bad habit of Star Wars is making a character cool then killing them off prematurely. We saw this with Darth Maul, Admiral Ackbar, and now with Ben Solo.

The story makes no sense. Rey and Kylo Ren have a force link where they can actually transport items through space instantaneously to each other and Rey can heal people with the force. The Emperor absorbs that force energy to get younger at the climax, but Rey beats him with the help of an additional lightsaber, which was all it took, one more lightsaber...sigh. At least nobody was flying through space (I am looking at your Carrie Poppins). We see a flashback to Luke training Leia in the ways of the Jedi. We hear Yoda, Mace Windu, Ahsoka Tano, Anakin Skywalker, and Obi-Wan Kenobi at the end cheering Rey on. We see Ewoks for a moment. C-3PO gets his memory wiped, but then gets it back in a fake out. Rey dies then comes back in a fake out. Chewbacca is presumed dead then comes back in a fake out. This movie tried so hard to make the errors of the past correct that it tripped over its own feet continuously and I left feeling faked out.

Saving the Children of Haskell

A Short Story by Joe Singh

Some have called me a rogue priest. They would not be wrong. The confines of conventional religions have confused me. I feel churches are overrated. The human experience is a fallible one. Corruption can and does occur in any organization of influence and power. The only way to truly know for oneself is to ask. Pray and ask and you will see the illusion of the world fade away and you will know the truth to the experience you are in called “life”. I am nothing without the Creator, and it is his errand I am on despite organized religions and their conflicting ideologies and actions. I have done things that I was not taught in a book. I keep my eyes focused on the light of the Savior, for it is the brightest light in all the realms of the deities, demigods, and idols. That is not to say they do not exist too; they do.

I am no saint. I have messed up. Having a relationship and

rapport with the Creator is the only reason I am still alive. I was helped more than I deserved. I decided to come to Haskell Indian Nations University.

I immediately felt the sadness of this land. I was told the stories of the children who still remained on this campus. One morning, I heard a child’s voice say, “He is waking up!” Needless to say, I had a pretty good idea of what was going on here. These little ones had been traumatized and they were scared. In their mortal life they were ripped from their families and forced to assimilate into a culture that saw them as less than human. They were human. Ghosts are people too. They were still here.

I can feel spirits, but I rarely see them. Luckily, I made friends with a Pueblo girl who said she could see them. Through much talk and demonstration, I believed her, after all, what I have done is impossible to believe as well. The psychic girl mediated between the child ghosts and me. I spoke to them as children should be spoken to, with love.

Children are the most special people on this planet. They are innocent and shine brighter than all. There is a reason Jesus Christ loved the little children especially. I asked them if they wanted to leave. I could not guarantee they would see their parents, but I could guarantee a better and brighter place where they could play and have more fun and there would be people who would love them. The home of the Father. The psychic told me most of the little ones said yes in excitement. She also told me that some of the older ones who had watched after the young ones were skeptical of me. They did not like men. I did not blame them. They had no reason to trust me. I asked the children where they would like the ceremony to be done. They said behind Osceola-Keokuk Hall. I found that strange because it is not a very reverent place. I thought the medicine wheel or the cemetery would have been their pick, but they had chosen and children are not easily swayed. I would return at three in the morning and ask for help getting these kids where they needed to be. I

asked the psychic Pueblo girl to accompany me, but she declined.

In the witching hour, I took my eagle feather, Bible, and sage to the spot previously agreed upon. I prayed. I smudged myself and the area to prepare. I sang children’s songs. I asked for angels and ancestors to come and get these lost, forgotten, scared, and scarred children. The night was silent. Peace and calm hung in the moist air.

The next day the psychic came to me in a hurry and had exclaimed that she saw significantly less children than she usually did. It was validation that it had worked. She said the older spirits had stayed, but the majority of the children had left. I asked her to ask them what they saw. She did. She told me that all the children had run up a stairway of light. Led Zeppelin was right. I felt immense joy hearing this. I asked my psychic friend to communicate with the older spirits who were hesitant to trust me if they would like me to do it again for them. They said yes.

Vagina Monologues

Jared Nally

Native women from Haskell Indian Nations University are finding a voice and becoming part of the larger conversation on violence against women in the Lawrence community.

Haskell Faculty Michelle Sturges-Brown and Sierra Two Bulls took place in the community production of “The Vagina Monologues: Liberated Sisters,” a play that began with interviews

collected the the playwright Eve Ensler and has since turned into a larger movement taking place on Valentine’s Day each year to bring awareness to violence against women—and vaginas.

This year’s production of “The Vagina Monologues” was directed by Sadie Barbee who included two original monologues from interviews she had with women in the Lawrence community. Barbee also included a monologue “Crooked Braid” written from interviews with Lakota women per-

formed by Sierra Two Bulls who is Oglala Lakota. Barbee thought it was important to have actors representing their own communities.

Haskell students showed their support for their teachers throughout the showings for the week, and especially during the last dress rehearsal where HINU students and faculty made up over a third of the audience.

An Evening With

LOUISE ERDRICH

March 11, 2020

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Haskell Auditorium

Games Through Photos

Makayla Sloan



Haskell's Men's Basketball team played the Crowley's Ridge College "Pioneers" on February 12th. The team won the game 87-77. During the game, players Tristan Keah-tigh and Nakia Hendricks scored their 1000th career point. Congratulations! Onward Haskell! Pictured are Nakia Hendricks, Bryon Elledge, and Tristan Keah-Tigh. *Photo by Makayla Sloan*



Saturday 15th Haskell's Men's Basketballs team played against Oglala Lakota College and won 93-86. Haskell Seniors honored were Nakia Hendricks, Tristan Keah-Tigh, Bryon Elledge, and Antwon Winn. The team poses with seniors after the senior ceremony. *Photo by Makayla Sloan*

Softball Schedule

Jared Nally

Haskell Indian Nations University's women's season started off in full swing on February 18 after 6 postponed games. The team currently has a 1-5 win loss record with future games coming up.

March Game Schedule:

3/1 vs. Stephens College
3/5 vs. Ecclesia College
3/6 vs. Southwestern College

Fastpitch Dreams Spring Classic:

-3/9 vs. Ohio Christian University
-3/9 vs. Holy Family College
-3/10 vs. University of Rio Grande
-3/10 vs. University of Pikeville
-3/11 vs. TBA
-3/11 vs. Lincoln College
-3/12 vs. Penn State-Fayette
-3/12 vs. TBA

3/19 vs. Central Christian College
3/21 vs. Principia College
3/22 vs. Blackburn College
3/28 vs. Central Christian College

*Home games shown in bold

Steve Miller Open

Jared Nally

MANHATTAN, KS Feb. 22, 2020—Ten student athletes represented Haskell Indian Nations University at the Steve Miller Open. Sophomore Dorian Daw placed third in the men's 800m with a time of 2:05:09, a personal best, and second in the men's mile with a time of 4:49:23, freshman Nelson Yazzie placed fourth for the men's mile with a time of 4:55:54, a personal best, and Tristan Antonio, a sophomore, also competed in the men's mile and placed sixth with his personal best, a time of 5:36:47.

The team also had individuals compete in the men's and women's 3000 meters with junior Sielak Tuckfield taking sixth place with a time of 9:29.79 and teammates Uriah Little Owl taking 14th, Joshua Garcia taking 15th, Ibuki Hara taking 16th, Justin Rhoades taking 17th, and Ryan Myore taking 18th. Tavia Hart placed 8th with a time of 13:14.58. Little Owl, Hara, and Rhoades all had personal bests during this race.



Haskell's women's basketball team played against Oglala Lakota College on February 15th. The girls won an astounding 123-64. Senior night honored seniors Janee Bates and Cailey Lujan. Pictured is senior Janee Bates. *Photo by Makayla Sloan*

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All articles received are subject to edit and refusal of publication. By submitting a article, you are giving us permission to publish and edit. You also acknowledge that you are the author and accept all responsibilities. Your full name, Haskell email, and contact information MUST accompany all submissions and are subject to verification.

Please contact us with any concerns, issues, or suggestions for The Indian Leader by email or stop by our office on the main floor (gym level) of Tecumseh Hall.

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