

THE INDIAN LEADER

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

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The aftermath of the tipi fire. Photos by Jared Nally.

Tipi Tragedy

Jared Nally

Tragedy swept through the Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) community on May 9th as individuals woke up to news that a tipi erected to honor HINU spring 2020 graduates burned down earlier that morning. HINU security had contacted the Douglas County Emergency Communications Center at 4:35 am and the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical team arrived within 7 minutes to extinguish the flames, leaving only a pile of tipi poles.

Many in the HINU community suspected vandalism and showed concerns that it may have been racially motivated. The burning of Native

homes has been a device of colonization and is found in many massacres of Native people like the Sand Creek massacre. Tipi burning is a reminder of this painful past. "I'm really devastated by what appears to be a hate crime on Haskell's campus" said Renee Kuhl on the Indian Leader's breaking Facebook post.

The remains of HINU's tipi were handled accordingly and burned as a ceremonial practice by Ernest Wilson, Acting Supervisor: College Resident Assistant. The Haskell Foundation created a fundraiser to replace the tipi estimated at around \$3,000 and surpassed this goal by \$12,780 before it was shut down. Additional funds will be cleared by donors to go towards other efforts headed by the Haskell

Foundation or returned if requested.

Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical released a statement on May 11 announcing that it partnered with HINU, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to investigate the fire. The investigation led to the arrest of Ryan Sekayouma Simpson on May 14th. Simpson is Native and a previous HINU student.

Simpson is awaiting trial but his cousin John Horsechief says "I understand one day soon, my cousin will have to answer for this..." and elaborates that Simpson is part of a greater tragedy in Indian Country — substance abuse, alcoholism, and homelessness which Horsechief says, "Un-

fortunately, this has been a burden among our people for many years.

Horsechief recalls his sober cousin who "... took pride in his Native heritage and that he loved his Native peoples". COVID-19 pandemic responses created a barrier for Simpson, who was currently homeless and struggling with substance abuse, to get help. Horsechief said the fire was out of character for Simpson and how he was raised. Horsechief believes that "... this should raise concerns for our tribes, Native people and its leaders about the underlying problems that substance abuse and alcoholism create... I cannot imagine how difficult it is to be homeless in Lawrence with this sickness going around."

Spot Filled

Jared Nally

Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) filled the vacant university president position after over a year of interim presidents. Candidate Ronald Graham Ed.D. broke the news on Facebook updating his occupation to President of HINU on May 11th and made an appearance on campus the following day.

The Bureau of Indian Education released their official statement announcing Graham as HINU president May 15th. BIE director Dearman said “Dr. Graham comes with tremendous skills and abilities not only in educational programs, but also in focusing on diversity and inclusion in education. Dr. Graham is passionate about soliciting and using input from stakeholders and fostering a team environ-

ment to create success. His leadership style will provide the platform necessary for Haskell’s current dedicated staff to be part of team decisions that will move Haskell forward.” Graham will be relocating from California and visited HINU for the vacant position back in fall 2019. Graham wrote on social media “I fell in love with this university, faculty, staff, and students when I visited there... This school does so much with so little. It is a direct stepping stone for our Native American [and Alaska Native] students who attend there and achieve their aspirations upon graduation.”

Graham received his Doctor of Education in 1995 at the University of San Francisco in Organization and Leadership/International Multicultural Education. Graham was formerly the Dean of Instruction in Health Sciences, Public Safety and

Industrial Technology at Victor Valley College and has experience with four other universities. Other occupations have included realtor, pilot,

deputy sheriff, police academy coordinator, security training coordinator, and law enforcement professional.



Empty presidential parking spot filled by Graham. *Photo by Jared Nally.*

SGA Election

Results

Jared Nally

April 20 — Elections were held for the 2020-2021 Student Government Association (SGA) executive board through google forms. The results were announced later that day. Congratulations to the new Haskell Indian Nations University SGA executive board!

President, Ahnawake Toyekoyah

Executive Vice President, William Wilkinson

Chief of Staff, Jakoby Stump

Vice President of Athletic Affair, Amber Quis Quis

Vice President of Communications, Rebecca Villalobos

Vice President of Environmental Affairs, Lyman Walker

Vice President of Finance, Autumn Wano

Vice President of Marketing, Marlon Scott

Vice President of Special Operations, Priscilla Ortiz

SGA Election

Accessibility

Jared Nally

Governments at every level are searching for ways to make voting accessible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The disbursement of Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) students during pandemic efforts necessitated an online option to elect the 2020-2021 executive board for the Student Government Association (SGA).

The election, which took place through google forms on April 20, only engaged 5.6% of the student body (based on fall enrollment numbers) of which Indian Leader estimates 29% of those voters were constituents themselves.

Other factors may have contributed to the low poll numbers. The only email sent to the students about the election date was sent on the day of the election — 7 hours before voting ended. Social media played a role in communicating to a portion of students, leaving some without access to voting information like candidates or campaigns.



Behind the Comic

Jared Nally

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem has criticized both the Cheyenne River and Pine Ridge reservations for “unlawful” checkpoints set up as pandemic response efforts to the threat of COVID-19. Noem addressed letters to the Cheyenne

River Sioux Tribe and Oglala Sioux Tribe May 8 confronting them for establishing checkpoints on highways running through the reservations. These letters reference a memorandum from the Department of Interior from April 8 which provided guidance for tribal COVID-19 responses related to roadways.

Tribes continue to operate check-

points. Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Chairman Harold Frazier told CNN, “With the lack of resources we have medically, this is our best tool we have right now to try to prevent [the spread of Covid-19]”. May 20 — Noem announced over twitter, “Following the tribes’ refusal to remove the checkpoints, I asked our state Attorney General to order an investigation into these check-

points.” Noem is pursuant that these checkpoints are unlawfully operated on state and US highways.

The health of indigeneous South Dakotans is balanced between a power struggle with state and tribal governments — both claiming they have the interest of public health in mind.

HINU Follows National Trend in Native American/Alaska Native Enrollment

Jared Nally

Fewer Native American and Alaska Native students are going to college. Data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics show national enrollment numbers for Na-

tive Americans and Alaska Natives have dropped 30.8% from 2009-10 to 2017-18 (12-month enrollment). Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) 2009-2019 fall enrollment numbers follow the national trend mirroring the 30.8% drop.

Indian Country has 34 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) which have collectively seen a 17.8% drop in 10-year total enrollment numbers. Many of these TCUs have a combination of Native and Non-Native students. HINU and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic

Institute, overseen by the BIE, however require tribal verification for enrollment, and together have seen a 34.9% drop in 10-year enrollment.

Out of the 34 TCUs, 74% have seen decreases in enrollment. The College of Menominee Nation has seen the largest decrease in fall enrollment, down 62.6% from 2009; on the other hand, Navajo Technical University has seen an increase of 113% for its fall enrollment.

Ten-year trends show three TCUs had decreases in enrollment by

over 50%, and four had increases in enrollment by over 50%. HINU ends up at number 12 for the largest decrease in fall enrollment.

COVID-19 pandemic responses may further impact fall enrollment rates for TCUs. HINU has yet to make a decision on online or in-person courses for the fall 2020 semester. Currently, HINU has 539 pre-enrolled students.



Container garden with smith peas.



Backyard garden. *Photos by Hayley Wells.*

Food Sovereign Summer

Hayley Wells &
Jenna Makesgood

Food insecurity and poor diet contribute to many health issues facing Native people today. Growing healthy food at home can help close nutritional gaps. There are only a few things that need to be known in order to successfully yield your own crop at home. Food sovereignty is a common indigenous ideal and becoming food sovereign does not have to be hard. Growing your own food can be a very wholesome and beneficial experience for yourself and your family.

When getting started, it is a good idea to start small. To begin, you'll need seeds, a location, and a little time. It

is easy to get overwhelmed with the variety of seeds available. Choose a variety or two of seeds to begin with and expand over time. Make a list of the fruits and vegetables you enjoy eating and see which grow best in your climate. Many first time gardeners find success with lettuce or beans.

Some plants need more sunlight and some need less water. It is very helpful to research your plants and also find quality soil. Soil quality will influence a plant's nutrient intake and how it grows. It is easy to make your own compost to mix with your soil to provide organic materials that will breakdown to provide further nutrients. Gardens thrive with compost! Instead of throwing away coffee grounds, eggshells, and orange peels, you can toss them in your compost/garden. In order to help your compost break down organic

materials, be sure to stir regularly and layer with soil and water as needed.

Everyone may not have access to a large outdoor space, but there are other options. Mellissa Freiburger of the Sunrise Project in Lawrence, KS offers the following advice to novice gardeners with limited space, "Container gardening makes growing food accessible to almost anyone, so I love that aspect of it! Almost anything can work as a container as long as there is drainage... don't get too bogged down in thinking that you need special equipment. And the bigger the container - the better!"

HINU Student, Jamie Colvin, has plenty of experience working with plants at home. She says, "Pay attention to water runoff. Water the souls, not the plant." She explains that this will prevent the plant from

burning in the sun. And Colvin's final gardening tip was, "Make sure your plant has plenty of bubble room so the roots can grow in its own area and not compete for space with others."

The benefits of gardening don't have to end each season. Seeds can be preserved to be planted the next year. Many crops can also be stored for long periods of time to come in handy during the winter months. With patience, a successful garden will bring you one step closer to food sovereignty!

Crock Pot Moose Stew

Diamond Williams

3 lbs moose roast
3 cup beef broth
3 yellow onions
2 cup celery
4-5 potatoes
3 large carrots
6 cloves garlic
1/2 stick butter
1/4 cup salt
1/4 cup pepper
1 Tbsp chili powder
1 Tbsp cornstarch
Fresh rosemary
Fresh thyme

1. If frozen let roast sit out for the day, if thawed remove roast from fridge and let sit out for 30min-1 hour to bring meat closer to room temperature.

2. Mix salt, pepper and chili powder, cover roast with mixture and allow

to rest for 20 min.

3. While the roast marinates in the seasonings, set a large pan on the stove on medium to high heat.

4. Add butter and a couple sprigs of fresh thyme and fresh rosemary to the heating pan. When the butter has completely melted, add the seasoned roast searing both sides, about 5 min each side.

5. While the roast is searing, chop up the onions and celery, add them to the crockpot.

6. Pour the beef broth over the chopped onions and celery. Add a couple of sprigs of fresh thyme and rosemary.

7. Once the roast is done searing, add all contents of the pan into the crockpot.

8. Dice the garlic and add on top of the roast.

9. Cube potatoes, add on top of the roast.

10. Set the crockpot to high and cook for about 3 hours or until potatoes get soft.

11. Cut carrots and add to the crockpot, continue cooking on high for an hour.

12. Once carrots are cooked, remove 1 cup of broth and any visible rosemary or thyme twigs and the roast.

13. Cut roast into cubes and return them back into the crockpot.

14. Add cornstarch to the cup of removed broth. Stir until no clumps are visible. Return the broth to the crockpot and stir.

15. Serve and enjoy.



Stew cooking in crock pot.
Photo by Diamond Williams.

Sweet Garlic Salmon

Diamond Williams

1 salmon filet
1/2 yellow onion
3 cloves garlic
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 butter
salt
crushed chili pepper
fresh rosemary
tin foil

1. Wash salmon and cut into serving-size pieces

2. Place each piece of salmon on its own piece of tinfoil that can fold over and cover the whole piece.

3. Sprinkle salt and crushed chili peppers over salmon pieces.

4. Dice garlic and place it into a small container, add most of the

brown sugar with about 2 tablespoons set aside.

5. Spread the garlic and brown sugar mix over the salmon covering the flesh. Sprinkle the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar over the salmon pieces.

6. Cut the onion in half keeping the root attached so that you do not cry. Cut onion into moon crescent shapes without separating the onion pieces.

7. Place unseparated pieces of onion on to top the garlic/brown sugar covered salmon pieces.

8. Cut butter equally to the number of salmon pieces you have. Place butter pieces in the center of the salmon pieces and garnish with a piece of fresh rosemary.



Finished course. Photo by Diamond Williams.

9. Fold over the tinfoil wrapping the salmon and sealing all the edges so that no liquid comes out.

10. Let the salmon marinate while the oven heats up to 325°, bake for 20 min

11. Remove salmon from the oven and let sit for 5 min.

12. Unwrap, server with rice or cauliflower rice, and enjoy.



Blood Quantum Movie Review

Connor MacDonald

Director/Writer: Jeff Barnaby

Starring: Michael Greyeyes, Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, Forrest Goodluck, and Kiowa Gordon

Blood Quantum (2019) is the second feature-length film by Mi'kmaq director, writer, and editor Jeff Barnaby following 2013's *Rhymes for Young Ghouls* and several smaller projects.

Blood Quantum's central narrative

conceit is what makes it most interesting. When the zombie apocalypse breaks out, residents of the Red Crow Reserve find themselves immune to zombification while the affliction spreads through the white population in the neighboring town.

The film's premise may feel familiar to those who've seen Rodrick Pocatoh's (Comanche, Pawnee, and Shawnee) 2010 film *The Dead Can't Dance*, a low budget "zom-com" that follows a Comanche family on a road trip through rural Kansas. Barnaby opts to adopt a serious tone more typical of a traditional zombie film with slick production values to match. I

admire that both directors make an effort to invert the racialized origins of the zombie as a pop culture fixture.

Unfortunately, the story and characters sometimes seem standard for the genre and feel like safer creative decisions than what I was expecting.

Much of the media coverage of this film has highlighted the sociopolitical commentary that Barnaby injects into the film. I agree that there are exciting ideas present here; however, they deserve further development to truly be groundbreaking. Barnaby's previous film demonstrates an ability to convey his unique perspective to

an audience without compromising watchability. What interests me about him is not his technical ability, but the ideas he expresses through his work. For me, *Blood Quantum* never quite rose to the same level that *Rhymes for Young Ghouls* did. Nonetheless, it is well worth watching for fans of the genre or anyone interested in modern Indigenous cinema.

Blood Quantum is currently available to stream online at Shudder.com.

Barnaby's previous feature film, *Rhymes for Young Ghouls*, is available on YouTube to rent and included with Amazon Prime Video.

Blood Quantum

Delila Begay

What does it mean to be Native? Well, most would think feathers, pow wows, drumming and living in teepees. Now Natives are all different; we come from different tribes and blood quantum. But we have been letting the idea of Blood Quantum control our ideas of what "Native" is. We have been separating ourselves from each other because someone

doesn't act Native or doesn't look Native enough. Sophomore Jeffrey Powell said he has felt singled out from an experience in a class for being a White passing, straight male — feeling like "you don't belong here."

Our first thought of mixed Native bullying is to always look for the White passing individuals, but what about the mixed Natives that are different tribes? Zee is a Student at Haskell who is Hopi, Navajo, Tewa, and Laguna Pueblo, and who has experi-

enced bullying because of her Navajo and Hopi sides. It's no secret that the Navajo and Hopi people don't like each other a little bit, but for adults to bully a child because of her tribe is surprising. As a Navajo myself, this disgusted me. I thought the hate between the Navajo and Hopi people was just a joke. But thinking of it as a joke doesn't help the people who are being affected by it.

If we could bring awareness of the bullying among our communities

maybe we'd be able to get along better. The discrimination among our fellow students is hurting them and overall, it's hurting ourselves. We are making it seem as though we are better than them because they didn't grow up on the reservation or they aren't "full-blooded". If we help one another and lift each other up our communities will be so much better.

Away From Home - Update

Deliah Begay

The National Endowment for the Humanities, “Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories” has opened the conversation between this generation and the previous generation about what occurred during the time of the Boarding School Era. Which is where we start to ask our grandparents about what they experienced from that time.

I asked my grandpa all about what he experienced during his time at the boarding school he attended. My grandpa, Oliver Iyua, attended Intermountain Boarding School in Utah. The boarding school taught him how to dance, various sports, and how to speak English. While there if he spoke in his Native Language, Navajo, he would get his mouth washed out with soap. But he said going to boarding school was good for him because

from everything he learned is what got him his job and his family. The school he attended only went to 8th grade so he never got a high school diploma. Once they were done with school he was told to pick a place that he wanted to live and look for work. He chose to go to Chicago, Illinois.

Even though he went through all of this I was curious if he would ever go and visit the “Away from Home” traveling exhibit. He said he would so he could see what others experienced during their time there. Also that he didn’t care if these stories were being shared because it was a long time ago. He knows that everyone has experienced their time at their boarding school differently. Maybe seeing how everyone experienced the Boarding School Era will give us the knowledge of what our grandparents had experienced and brought us closer at this time.

Poet Harjo Sees Second Term

Jared Nally

Native American poet Joy Harjo receives a second term as the Library of Congress’s (LOC) Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden appointed Harjo for the 2020-2021 year, a consecutive second term beginning on September 1st.

In an LOC press release, Hayden said “I’m thrilled she said yes to a second term to help the Library showcase Native poets from coast-to-coast. Her profound musical and literary talents are a gift to the nation.”

Harjo will continue to build on her work as the Poet Laureate with plans to launch a new collection for the LOC that would feature Native poets and their work — a digital project under the name “Living Nations, Living Words: A Map of First Peoples Poetry.”

I Was So Sure This Day Would Come

Jamie Colvin

I was so sure this day would come.
The day I were to turn my tassel
Was going to be the day of my accomplishments.
This day to come was foreseen,
Just as a rumbling storm begins to crawl across
the horizon.
The day I were to turn my tassel
Was the day I would celebrate.
Laughing and sharing of all the memories
Like family uniting for the first time in a long
time.
The day I were to turn my tassel
Was the day I made them proud.
Knowing my goal that lied ahead
And sticking to it until the end.
The day I were to turn my tassel
Was the day I was going to say, “I did it!”
Like when you finally find your person in this
world
And cannot hold your blurring words of, “I
love you!” to them.
The day I were to turn my tassel
Was the day I would walk across the stage.
Carefully placing each moccasin to greet the floor
Walking in grace knowing my ancestors are with
me.
The day I were to turn my tassel
Was the day I thought would happen.
I was so sure of hearing my full name I requested
to be said.
I was so sure of hearing my tribal affiliation to
represent my people.
I was so sure of hearing my Degree name being
announced.
I was so sure of hearing my section cheering me
on.
I was so sure this day would come,
The day I were to turn my tassel.

Sports Awards

Diamond Williams

Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) Awards

Women's Basketball

First Team A.I.I. Conference:

Janee Bates, Senior

Honorable Mention A.I.I. Conference: Odessa Begay, Freshman

Champion of Character: Janee Bates, Senior

Men's Basketball

First Team A.I.I. Conference:

Nakia Hendricks, Senior

Honorable Mention A.I.I. Conference: Bryon Elledge, Senior

Champion of Character: Elias Her Many Horses, Junior

Softball

2020 A.I.I. Conference Team:

Kylee Sellers, Junior

Deja White, Junior

2020 A.I.I. Champions of Character: Halia Shirley, Freshman

Golf

2020 A.I.I. Conference Team:

Layne Braswell, Senior

2020 A.I.I. Champions of Character

Layne Braswell, Senior

Cross Country

Second Team A.I.I. Conference: Tristan Antonio, Sophomore

Uriah Little Owl, Junior

Athletic Stat Board:

Volleyball

Cailey Lujan, Senior: Highest Aces per Career, 117; 1000 Digs Club

Sophia Honahni, Senior: Highest Digs per Season, 707(2019); Highest Digs per Career, 1681; 1000 Digs Club

Men's Basketball

Nakia Hendricks, Senior: Most Rebounds in a Single game, 23; Most Blocks in a Season, 41

P; Most blocks in a Career, 112; 1000 points club

Bryon Elledge, Senior: Most Assists in a Season, 119; Highest Assist Avg in a Season, 4.1; Most Assists in a Career, 365; Highest Assist Avg in a Career, 3.4; 1000 points club

Tristan Keah Tigh, Senior: Highest Scoring Avg in a Career, 13.3; 1000 points club

Women's Basketball

Janee Bates, Senior: Most Points in a Single Game, 39; Most Assists in a Single Game, 13

Justine Butterfield, Freshman: Most Blocks in a Single Game, 9

Peer-Based Awards

Men's Cross Country

Most Valuable: Dorian Daw

Horizon: Nelson Yazzie

Most Improved: Ibuki Hara

Women's Cross Country

Most Valuable: Shamiqua Nez

Horizon: Kyra Crank

Most Improved: AJ Holder

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