

## Second semester was a real challenge

*(Spilyay summer youth worker Ashley Aguilar continues her article about her first year at Haskell Indian College in Kansas.)*

When we went back to school for the second semester, we had a car. It was nice. A car makes a big difference when you're living on your own. When I started the second semester in January, I was showing and my belly was getting big. It looked like I had a basketball in my shirt.

We weren't even there a month when our car broke down. It cost us \$1,790 to get the car out of the shop. I really thank the Confederated Tribes for people like Jo Ann Bryant, because she did her best to get us an emergency loan through tribal credit.

I'm really appreciative of tribal programs that helped me out in school. I never realized how much support the Confederated Tribes give to its members until I left for school. Some students I talked to at school didn't even get assistance from their tribes, just a pat on the back.

Things seemed to be working out at school for both John and me. We were in good standing.

By the end of February I had a couple of months until my due date. Then when March came, I was talking to my teachers about my pregnancy. The teachers said they'd know when I had my baby because I wouldn't be in class.

Mia Roe Kalama was born on March 7, 2005 at 7:07 p.m., at the Lawrence Memorial Hospital. She was four pounds, 12 ounces, and 17 inches long.

They took her blood sugar, and it was low. Her complications worried the doctors. Unlike most mothers that get to see their babies after they are born, mine was taken away and I was taken to a resting room. At 11 p.m., they brought her in to me and I fell asleep with her in my arms. It was comforting. They took her a couple of hours later into another room, where they fed her and kept her under a bed warmer because she couldn't maintain her own heat.

That day Joe and Melinda came to visit me after I delivered. They were good to John and me. They are the true definition of best friends, and they did everything they could for us. I called all my professors and the counselors and told them my situation and said I wouldn't be coming back for a week.

After that I hobbled into the room, they had my baby in and

visited with her for a while. That whole hour I saw her I cried, because I thought that I was the reason why she had so many complications. It hurt me to see her getting poked to test her blood sugar and to see her wrapped in so much wire.

My mom was there the next day. Joe and Melinda picked her up at the airport. On the third day the nurses announced that my daughter had to go to a different hospital because her problems were more than they could handle. She was five or six weeks premature. They transferred her to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri.

I went back to school and my professors excused me from classes. I fell behind and it was hard, because John and I were driving on a daily basis to go to school and also to see my daughter in the hospital, a 100 mile round trip.

Mia stayed in the hospital longer than expected, and my sisters Georgie and Evelyn came to support me for two weeks. A week after they left my sister Mayanne and brother-in-law Allen Mitchell came to help us with baby.

It was exciting because the day that they came, Mia was getting discharged that next morning, and I got to stay the night with her.

After Mayanne and Allen left, I didn't know what to do. I had to go to class, but I had no one to watch Mia. Finally I got a hold of Sajari, a friend I had met my first semester. She was nice to watch Mia on such a short notice. It was expensive, though, so I got a job with federal work-study. I worked in the Haskell kitchen for about five weeks.

Final exam week was very stressful for me. I was under a lot of pressure to do my best.

My public speaking professor Dr. Hanson was so generous, she made my baby a beautiful quilt and embroidered the whole thing. So many people had touched my life at school it was amazing. My English professor made a positive impact on my writing and corrected all my grammatical errors. When I was finished with all my classes, I said my goodbyes and started packing up my apartment.

We left the school, ready to get home. It took us 29 hours to drive straight home. John woke me from sleeping and we saw the first mountain in Wyoming. It was good to see a hill of some sort. It wasn't flat land anymore.

It feels good to be home with a nice chunky baby.

## Scientists to study ancient skeleton

(AP) — After nearly a decade of court battles, scientists plan to begin studying the 9,300-year-old skeleton known as Kennewick Man as early as this week.

A team of scientists plans to examine the bones at the University of Washington's Burke Museum in Seattle, according to their attorney, Alan Schneider.

Four Northwest Indian tribes — the Yakama, Umatilla, Colville and Nez Perce — had opposed the study, claiming the skeleton could be an ancestor who should be buried. The Interior Department and the Army Corps of Engineers

had sided with the tribes.

But a federal judge in Portland, backed by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, ruled that the researchers could study the bones to determine how the man died and to find clues to prehistoric life in North America.

The bones quickly attracted attention from scientists after they were found in 1996 on a Columbia River bank near Kennewick, Wash.

The skeleton is one of the oldest and most complete skeletons ever found on the continent. The long, narrow shape of the skull shows characteristics unlike modern American Indi-

ans, raising questions that researchers hope to answer with extensive study.

"Understanding human variation is really critical," said Cleone Hawkinson, Portland anthropologist who founded Friends of America's Past to support scientific access to the ancient remains. "We can't close off an entire chapter in history."

She noted the eight anthropologists who filed the original lawsuit seeking access had to pay for their legal costs and the research, or seek funding for it. No government money was involved.

"It's all coming out of the scientists' pockets," Hawkinson

said.

The researchers plan to do what is called a "taphonomic" examination of the skeleton, taking measurements and making observations about the processes that affect animal and plant remains as they become fossilized.

Further study is planned based on the initial findings, Schneider said.

"Taphonomy is really a forensic examination," Schneider said. "You try to determine everything that has affected the skeleton from day of death until you study it."

### Living Traditions demonstrations

The following are the upcoming demonstrations of the Living Traditions program at the Museum at Warm Springs. The demonstrations are Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m., unless otherwise shown.

July 9-10: Bead tapestry, Wanda VanPelt. July 10: dance performance by Unity at 10:30 a.m.

July 16-17: Cedar root baskets, Ante Pamperein.

July 23-24: Willow baskets, Viola Kalama.

July 30-31: Tule weaving, Adeline Miller.

August 6-7: Cedar bark baskets, Annette Jim.

August 13-14, Women's traditional regalia, Ginger Smith.

August 20-21: Drum making, Emerson Squiemphen.

August 27-28: Corn husk weaving, Eileen Spino.

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