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Soboba #1 Indian Reporter DAD



SOBOBA INDIAN REPORTER: ERNIE C. SALGADO JR., PUBLISHER/EDITOR

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASSES OF 2018

By Ernie C. Salgado Jr.

Congratulation to all the 2018 Soboba High School, Community College and University graduates, regardless of which school you attended,

But first my most sincere apology for not having your names to list in this article as I was unable to obtain one from the tribal office. Regardless it does not diminish your achievement.

For all you high school graduates a special shout out on your completion of the first 17-18 years of you life's educational journey. I say 17 to 18 years because you have been receiving instructions since the day you were born and now as you enter adulthood you will find that your educational voyage will be taking a new direction in that you will now be making the critical crossroad decisions.

For want it's worth I want to share some of my observations, life choices and experiences from my humble past.

The first barrier or "bump in the road" you will encounter will be one that will seem like a "No Brainer" but will have a serious impact on your future plans even though you most likely haven't even given them much or any thought at all.

Although you may not view it as an obstacle you are the first tribal graduating class that will not be receiving any "Water Settlement Money." But you are entitled to receive monthly per capita pay-

ments from the casino profits. Again, you may not view this as a barrier but it will impact the decisions you make on your future plans.

Many before you couldn't get to the auto sales lot fast enough and encumbered 20 to 25 percent of their per capita checks for the next 5 to 7 years on a shinny new car or truck. And for the next few years saved nothing, investing in nothing and squandered the remaining 75 to 80 percent.

Many ruined what little credit they may have earned and piled up enormous credit card debt until they found themselves struggling to pay the minimum monthly payments. I know this is unsettling and sounds extremely negative when it's suppose to be a time for celebration and joy, but it's the reality and part of the learning curb as it were.

Then again, you might be one of the few that have been taught the value of a dollar and forgo the new shinny car/truck and handle your credit cards responsibly.

Sure you want a car but maybe a good used one will serve you as well as new one and at a lesser cost. And because of your age and until you're 25 year of age you auto insurance cost alone will set you back a good chunk of money.

You may decide to attend Mt. San Jacinto College or another community college earn an AA or AS degree or a certification or



The lady on the right is the grandmother of Lena, Bobby, Marie, Leonard and Ralph Arietta Jr., I remember both ladies very well but can't remember their names. I think the lady on the left is Lee Silvas mother.

just play sport, which is all a good thing.

Or you may be the one percent that attends a four year college or university and earns a BA or BS college degree or a graduate degree.

Then again, you may attend a vocational school and learn a trade. You might decide not to any of the above and contribute your time and energy to the betterment of the tribe. Get married and grow a family is still another good choice which can be done in conjunction to some of the other options.

However, alcohol and drugs should not be a part of your life. Oh yes, I hear the justifications of which the best one is "I can handle it." Our tribal cemetery and State and Federal prisons are overflowing with friends and family that professed these same words.

Did you know that more American Indians have died from alcohol and drug abuse than all the mass murders and government sponsored genocide of our people by the local, State and federal governments combined.

Even today we are killing our-

selves at an alarming rate and one of the primary challenges is over coming our the basic problems, **denial and enablement.**

Denial that a problem even exists is a major barrier. Many tribal member will become seriously offended and upset if not totally pissed off over this statement and article as a whole and will complain to the Tribal Council and anyone who will listen. That my friends is "Enabling the users and abusers or Enablement."

No one start off with the intent of becoming an alcoholic or drug addict/abuser, it's a slow process that one must put a lot of time and effort into for it to become a reality.

I don't want to sound as if I'm making light of the problem but it's a matter of fact. And how do I know this to be true? Because I have lived it and by the grace of God there go I.

Again, I congratulate all of you on your high school graduation and wish you the best in you life choices.

Remember what ever you decide to do never forget where you came from and the sacrifices your ancestors made to preserve your heritage and the sovereignty of the tribe so that you might someday reap the benefits of their sacrifice and perseverance.



BENNY HELMS IV HEADING FOR COLORADO

Soboba tribal member and San Jacinto High School's 5 foot seven 160 pound middle line-backer, Benny Helms IV was awarded the prestigious Bob Stangel Award for Outstanding Football Player of the Year for 2017 football season by the Hemet Sportsman's Club.

Benny the IV will be playing football at Fort Lewis Collage in Durango, Colorado next school year.

The collage is a small four-year school with less than 3,600 students. The college is also near the Ignacio Indian Reservation in

the southwest corner of state boarding on New Mexico.

The Ignacio Indian Reservation is the home of former United State Senator from Colorado, Ben Nighthorse Campbell. He was also a three-term U.S. Representative. And he was an Olympic medalist in the 1960 Games.

A multi-sport athlete, Benny the IV has been on the baseball, basketball and track and field teams. "Football is by far my favorite sport to play." he told SIR. "Besides the fact that I love the contact, what I think I love the most is that football has taught me so many lessons that I can use to better my future." He added.

He played football at San Jacinto for four years, receiving Defensive Player of the Year award when he was a freshman. He also was named to the All-Mountain Pass League first team as a freshman. He also was named to the All-Mountain Pass League first team and was selected October's Athlete of the Month by the Kiwanis Club of



Honored parents, Benny III & Fawnee Helms, Benny the IV, and super proud grandparents, Diane & Benny Helms Jr.

Hemet Valley.

Growing up on the Soboba Indians Reservation, Helms first played football when he was 8-years old. He has participated in Inter Tribal Sports since he was 7, softball since he was 9 and flag football since he was 15.

During the summer months he played on the reservation men's fast pitch softball team and was named to many of the all-tournament teams since he was 14.

San Jacinto football coach, Aric Galliano said he has seen Helms grow tremendously over the past four years. "The thing that Benny has that separates him from others is his strive for greatness." Galliano said. "He never settles. He started playing outside line-backer and got moved to inside line-backer this year." Coach Galliano went on to say. "The sign of a great player is one who is willing to do whatever it takes for the team to win."

Helms remains conditioned for

all of his sports in much the same way: Running, weightlifting and footwork drills. He trains on his own. "Of course in every sport you play, strength and speed and being mentally strong are big factors. Benny said.

Helms said to "never let anything hold you back, stay focused on your fitness, even during the off season." he said. "You are capable to do anything you put your mind to; all the hard work and extra practice will pay off as long as you give it your all."

The Skyhawks football season start on September 1, 2018 and the final game is on October 6th. The team will play six games.

When folks talk about football as a big mans sport I can't help but think of Rocky Marciano. At 5 foot 9 inches and 180 pounds he not only became the heavy-weight champion of the world he dominated it with a 50 wins and no losses with 49 KO record.

Benny the IV like Marciano has the "Heart" and the discipline to stand in the winners circle.

And don't be surprised when Benny the IV wins again.



DISCLAIMER: By Ernie C. Salgado Jr.: The *Soboba Indian Reporter* is based strictly on my humble opinion of the numerous tribal matters and issues. It is not intended to represent the views or positions of the Soboba Tribal Council or any individual member of the Council other than my own.

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“B-BOP”

CHARLES VAUGHN SILVAS SR.
FEBRUARY 7, 1949 – MAY 14, 2018

“B-Bop” AKA Charles Vaughn Silvas Sr. was born February 7, 1949 in Hemet CA to Leandro “Lee” and Lucy Mary (Fernandez) Silvas Sr. and passed away on May 14, 2018.

He was a proud member of the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians and lived his entire life in the San Jacinto Valley.

“B-Bop” attended Hemet schools through eighth grade and high school in San Jacinto. He graduated from San Jacinto High School in 1967. During his four years at San Jacinto he was an outstanding student and ball player. He starred in football, basketball and baseball.

He started coaching frosh/soph football at San Jacinto High School in 1978 and also coached boys’ and girls’ basketball and softball teams. His 19xx girls softball team won the only CIF Championship in the schools history.

He also coached the women’s basketball at Mt. San Jacinto College for two years and helped coach West Valley High School boys’ basketball from 2006 to 2009.

“B-Bop” is survived by his wife of 48 years, Yvonne (Becerra) Silvas; son Charles Vaughn Silvas Jr., daughters Dondi Reneé Silvas and Denise Roxanne Silvas-Thomas (DeMario); grandson Joseph William Bur-

ton Jr. (Daise Janay) and great-grandson Joseph Charles Lee Burton; and granddaughters Heaven Cheyenne and Sky Kay-Lee Silvas; granddaughter Shayna Lee Silvas-Thomas; Sister Theresa Seaton and brother Harold Silvas; and godchild Richie Miranda.

He will also be missed by countless nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members and those whose lives he touched over the years through coaching, teaching, mentoring and supporting.

“B-Bop” was preceded in death by his parents; siblings Marion Dave “Bugs,” Leandro “Tato,” Allynn Lynn, Daniel and Grace Anastasie Silvas; mother and father in-laws Frances Grace and Joe Becerra; niece Brenna Silvas, Lynn Silvas (infant son) and nephews Sean and Norman “Beagle” Ruiz Jr.

A viewing was held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 20 at Miller-Jones Mortuary, 1501 W. Florida Ave., Hemet. A Celebration of Life was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 21 at Valle Vista Assembly of God, 45252 State Highway 74, Hemet. Interment was at the Soboba Indian Reservation Cemetery with the traditional lunch following the services at Soboba Sports Complex, 24340 Soboba Road, Soboba Indian Reservation.

“B-BOP” THE MAN

Charlie “D—Bop” Silvas was a true American Indian “Icon.” Even though he never traveled far from home his presents was well known throughout Southern California and in Indian Country.

But first, on the Rez it seems like almost everyone has a nickname and Charlie was no exception. Behind ever nickname is a story while some are not as interesting as other B-Bops is worth telling.

B-Bop’s father, Lee Silvas served as the Soboba Tribal Chainman for many years. He, like B-Bop was a coach on the Rez. He had two teams the “Little Rascals” which would be little league today the “Ramblers” 15 to 18 years of age.

Anyway, his dad was self-employed and operated his business on the Rez. One day in the summer of 1954 Pete Morillo Sr., was visiting B-Bops dad and asked him who the little guy was bouncing up the road who happened to be Charlie. On that day he became forever know as B-Bop.

Before he began his coaching career at San Jacinto High School and Mt. San Jacinto College he managed and coached the Ahmium summer “Youth Baseball and girls Softball Training Camps” as many outsiders often referred to the daily “Workouts” at the ball field on the Soboba Indian Reservation where basics and fundamentals were gospel.

Basics and fundamentals were his motto in sports and in life. B-Bop never met a Stanger and always had a kind word.

After his high school and college football and baseball playing days he played fast pitch softball with the Soboba Men’s Club.

As a team leaders the team won many local and state honors and championships but winning the American Indians National Championship in Oklahoma. This was the most prestigious championships in Indian Country.

He helped forage intertribal softball game of which their was very limited interaction in the mid-seventies.

Tribal Politics was a waste of time and



energy so he never bothered to get involved with the verbal push and shove that it encumbers. Another critical lesson I missed.

On a more personal level in 1961 B-Bop was a youngster around 12 years old when I left the Rez to seek my fate and fortune.

When I returned to the Valley in October/November 1968 B-Bop was playing football at Mt. San Jacinto. He was about 19-years old then.

Charles "B-Bop" Silvas Sr. was presented with the inaugural President's Award at the recent Mt. San Jacinto College Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2017 inductee ceremony.

The President's Award is an honor bestowed on someone who has contributed in many different ways to the success of MSJC's Athletic Department.

In 1978. his first year of coaching the San Jacinto high school girls softball team he had eight American Indian girls on the team all of them were graduates of his Soboba Summer Softball Training Camps. In his rookie years as a high school coach he lead his girls softball team to the schools first and only CIF Championship.

B-Bop was always been a standup guy, a honest to goodness gentleman and an honest man.

He was the true basics and fundamentals of a role model if their ever was one.

May God bless you and thank you for sharing your kindness and making my life better.

Respectfully, Ernie Jr.

Meet Martin Sensmeier



His first feature film was a sci-fi thriller *Encounter*, which has yet to be released.

He was cast in a leading role in the remake movie *The Magnificent Seven*, alongside big names such as Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt, Ethan Hawke, and Vincent D'Onofrio.

Sensmeier was recently cast in the lead role in the biopic, *The Chickasaw Rancher* portraying Montford Johnson, the man who built a ranching empire near the Chisholm Trail.

Martin Sensmeier was born on June 27, 1985 in Anchorage, Alaska, to Raymond and Eva Sensmeier, but was raised in Yakutat.

His father is Tlingit and his mother is Koyukon-Athabascan from Ruby, Alaska on the Yukon River.

He began his professional career as a welder before working on an oil rig for Doyon Drilling. He eventually quit to pursue an acting career in Los Angeles.

Sensmeier began work as a professional model before entering into acting.

GOP U.S. Supreme Court Uphold Tribal Sovereignty

The tribe’s brief points out that its sovereign immunity “is a matter of federal law.” That principle was clearly established in a 1998 decision, *Kiowa Tribe v. Mfg. Techs., Inc.*

Tribes have sovereign immunity; there’s no waiver of sovereign immunity in the absence of express language. The same case declares that “the immunity possessed by Indian tribes is not coextensive with that of the States.”

The Lundgren’s, meanwhile, relied on a Supreme Court decision they claimed established that a state court could enforce law with respect to property owned by a tribe (*in rem*), just not the tribe itself (*in personam*), despite the assertion of sovereign immunity. In other words, the Lundgren’s could not sue the tribe, but their action to claim tribal property under Washington state law was a-okay.

The Washington Supreme Court agreed with them. Gorsuch did not. Rather, he quoted their finding and noted simply, “That was error.” The majority clarified that *Yakima* cannot be used to abrogate tribes’ sovereign immunity. The case now returns to state court for consideration of the Lundgren’s secondary, common law argument.

Gorsuch claims the justices opted for remand because the Lundgren’s fallback argument was belatedly introduced in an amicus brief from the U.S. government. That’s probably not the full story; Gorsuch likely wanted to go farther, ruling that there’s no abrogation of tribal sovereign immunity for a fee land purchase within a tribe’s reservation. That would mean tribal land is tribal land, as protected as the tribe itself.

Lacking five votes for the right course, Gorsuch opted to assemble a seven-justice majority for the next best option. Which is, to be clear, a big, big deal. It is a procedural win for the tribe, and a victory that resolves a subject of contention in the lower courts in favor of tribes, opening the door for litigation.

Bigger yet? It signals a potential shift for the Supreme Court toward protecting tribal sovereign immunity.

The anti-tribe block, as a friend who practices Indian law describes it, has had six votes for a while, sometimes seven. That Gorsuch managed a seven-justice majority is spectacular. Especially given his reputation for clashing with his colleagues.

The ruling bears on Washington’s second Indian law case before the Supreme Court this term. The same Indian law expert offered delicately, “Washington is fucked in the culverts case.”

One sour note: Chief Justice Roberts’ concurrence. Roberts stated, “[t]he correct answer cannot be that the tribe wins no matter what; otherwise a tribe could wield sovereign immunity as a sword and seize property without impunity, even without a colorable claim of right.”

That’s an astonishing sentence even in a maddening concurrence. There’s no potential for tribes to effect seizure; only reclamation of lands rightfully theirs.

We, American Indian folks need to understand that Chief Justice Roberts’ is a “Progressive” just like McCain.

They are not the friends of the American Indian they pretend to be. Good news is we do have friends.

Angelina Jolie To Produce Jim Thorpe Movie



Angelina Jolie is teaming with Fences producer Todd Black, Steve Tisch of Escape Artists Productions, and Abraham Taylor to produce **Bright Path: The Jim Thorpe Story**, a biopic on legendary American Indian athlete Jim Thorpe, who will be played by Martin Sensmeier. Taylor penned the script with Alex Nibley and Sterlin Harjo. Executive producers are Sensmeier, Josh Aker, and Justine Hunt of Box of Daylight Productions.

Jim Thorpe was a member of the Sac and Fox Nation and his native name, Wa-Tho-Huk, translates as Bright Path.

In 1912, he won two Olympic gold track and field medals, representing the United States while his citizenship went unrecognized during a period of cultural genocide for Native Americans.

Known as one of the most versatile athletes, Thorpe went on to play Major League Baseball, professional Football and eventually founded the organization that became the National Football League.

Warner Bros released a Thorpe biopic, *Jim Thorpe—All-American*, in 1951, which was directed by Michael Curtiz and starred Burt Lancaster.

The producers are said to have secured support from Indian Country to participate in financing the film as well as the involvement of Thorpe’s family in telling the authentic story.

“My brother Richard and I are the only surviving children of Jim Thorpe,” commented Bill Thorpe. “Our father’s accomplishments in life are a great

source of pride to us.”

In the more than six decades since Burt Lancaster’s *Jim Thorpe: All American*, our family has heard of dozens of attempts to bring this story to modern audiences, but we have never shared the vision of a movie until the authentic portrayal in *Bright Path: The Jim Thorpe Story*.”

“I’m honored to be working on this project,” said Jolie. “I have had the privilege of spending time with Bill Thorpe, and will be listening to and guided by the Tribes and the Thorpe family in the making of this film.”

UTA’s Independent Film Group will rep *Bright Path: The Jim Thorpe Story* for financing and distribution.

Jolie is repped by UTA, Media Talent Group and Sloane Offer.

Sensmeier, who was recently seen in Taylor Sheridan’s *Wind River* and the HBO series *Westworld*, is repped by UTA and Justine Hunt of Hines and Hunt Entertainment



Soboba Open Tribal Credit Union

For over twenty-years the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians has wanted to establish a credit union that allowed tribal members access to services. However, the show stopper was the Tribal Council with the support of the General Membership wanted it to be **"Trially owned and operated."** After spending years, without any success because of the extreme difficulty of gaining approval for a credit union the current Council was made aware of the Morongo Credit Union.

Many Soboba tribal members, including Tribal Council Secretary, Monica Herrera, were members of the Morongo Branch of First Californian Credit Union which has been in operation for several years. Herrera reached out to the credit union to set up meetings with Soboba's Tribal Council

to explore the possibilities of setting up a branch at Soboba. And the rest is history.

What is significant is the fact that the mindset held for so many years of **"Owning and Controlling"** the credit union benefits the Genera Membership of the tribe has appeared to be overcome.

The credit union is being temporarily housed in a modular building near the Soboba Casino with plans to move it to a permanent location soon. It officially opened at the end of February but the grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting was held on April 6. President and CEO Michelle Thorne and other company dignitaries travelled from the credit union's headquarters in Utah to attend.

"It is not just a lending relation-

ship, but access to a full-service account," said Deborah Tschann, Soboba Branch Manager. *"Our main purpose is to meet the financial needs of tribal members,"* she said. *"This relationship allows many tribal members to qualify for loans that many have not been able to have access to. It is a full-service financial institution that can meet all their 'banking' needs. It is a trusted institution that is not going to take advantage of them and as a credit union we do not have to satisfy stockholders."*

The members own the credit union so all profits, except what we are required to hold for regulatory purposes, are returned to the members in the form of lower loan rates, high deposit rates, access to technology/branches, lower fees, full product services,

branded credit cards and more." *"The Tribal Council is always looking for better ways to provide services for its members and employees."* Soboba Tribal Council Vice Chairman, Isaiah Vivanco said. *"The tribe was really excited to be partnering with First Californian."* *"It's a benefit for the tribe, our members and employees who are able to do their banking needs before they head home,"* he added.

The next order of business is for the tribe to get out of the lending business completely.

Although the First Californian Credit Union has been established on the Soboba Reservation the Tribe continues to make loans to tribal members for up to \$50,000 dollars as well as home loans. The tribe could not only save the

money it is paying the tribal loan officer it could insure that tribal members could continue to obtain the individual personnel loans and home loans from the credit union by underwriting the loans. Underwriting is a financial term used in place of "Guarantee" or "Co-sign."

In way of example, the tribe could simple establish a special tribal members loan criteria with the credit union for the tribal members. This would benefit the tribal members and the tribe would not be putting up millions of dollars that could be used for investment with a bigger return.

This is not to be taken as criticism but rather as a suggestion.

Again, congratulations to the

Ernie C. Salgado Jr.

SOBOBA FIRE DEPARTMENT GROWS

Soboba Fire Chief Randy Sandoval (Mesa Grande) announced that the Soboba Fire Department is expanding with the hiring of 12 full time professional.

Chief Sandoval said. *"We interviewed and tested for three firefighter paramedic positions, three (emergency medical technician) ETM firefighters, three fire apparatus engineers and skills tested for three fire captains has been completed."*

Sandoval added *"We had 56 people applied for the 12 positions at the Soboba Fire Department and the majority of them were highly qualified."*

"I have been working with AMR's Jack Hanson on developing a paramedic program and be our paramedic coordinator for Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians." Chief Sandoval said. *"With this partnership it will give our community the best medical care possible."*

"Through our partnership with AMR we will gain different training opportunities, provide audits and help keep the Soboba paramedics' skills up to a high standard. As part of the EIS requirements, we are hiring personnel to provide additional coverage for the Soboba community and developments. The surrounding areas, including San Jacinto and Hemet, will also benefit with the additional fire personnel staffing, fire apparatus and upgraded paramedic program." He added.

The recent skills training for EMT and paramedic applicants

had the opportunity to utilize AMR's new mobile training unit that can produce a mega code simulation. After candidates took a written exam and before having a face-to-face interview, they were put through a skills test using a state-of-the-art mannequin that AMR uses for training purposes. The command center was located inside an ambulance where Joshua Dehart guided the mannequin's breathing and vitals via a laptop computer to create a scenario of someone suffering from a heart attack. The realistic training device can "talk" and "hear" by means of Garland "Butch" Carpenter who wore a headset inside the vehicle.

"We just got this (training) ambulance two months ago," said Carpenter, who has been a paramedic for 32 years. *"We have always had a training program but this is just one more tool to augment high-risk, low-frequency skills."*

Carpenter said paramedic candidates were graded on several things, including how well they delegated to the others with him on the simulated call. He said they need to realize they can't do every single skill by themselves and need to be free to focus on being positive for the patient.

"On a real ambulance, crew members must get used to the order of how things are done." Carpenter said. *"There are some things I like to do myself to be sure they are done to my satisfaction and other things I can trust my partner to do."* *"The*

difference between EMTs and paramedics is essentially like the difference between nurses and doctors." *"An EMT is trained to recognize major problems whereas a paramedic is trained to recognize them but also to treat them."* Carpenter said.

Sandoval said. *"By the time the replacement casino is open everyone will be fully trained and familiar with personnel currently on duty so they will be able to operate as one unit."*

Sandoval, who is in his 35th year of fire service, said once his department gets paramedics on board they will be able to offer the same kind of service that neighboring communities of Hemet and San Jacinto do. Both cities are included as part of a mutual aid agreement with the Soboba Fire Department.

"Aside from all the testing and training his department's personnel receive on a regular basis the main lesson they need to remember is that people should be treated with respect, no matter what." *"Our job is customer service plain and simple."* Sandoval said.



First Responders, Always Ready!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



June 2018

CAROLINE (VIVANCO) POST	2
ERIC BRITTAN	4
RICHARD L. SALGADO SR.	5
LAWRENCE MODESTO	12
ERNIE C. SALGADO JR.	13
RETHA REYES	16
LUANN (BRITTAN) GUANCHENO	17
DARRELL LOPEZ	19
ROBERT VIVANCO	20
STACIA COZART	2
FRAN RUSSELL	26
FREDA MIRANDA	27
IRENE (RAZON) MARTINEZ	28

AND A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY FAVORITE SISTER-IN-LAW

CLAUDIA SALGADO JUNE 7, 2018

Soboba Elders Meeting

June 12, 2018

Soboba Country Club

Lunch at 12 noon



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