

BLOOD TRIBE COUNCIL REVIEW

TSINIKSSINI

Blood Tribe Communications

VOL. 1 ISSUE 7 DECEMBER 2009

FREE

Public Works
struggles with
storm

First Nations
Metis and Inuit
Days at the
Lethbridge
College

Day Chief
Recieves
SAMFA
Award

Vielle To
Carry
Olympic
Torch

Danielle Vielle
2010 Olympic Torchbearer
from Kainai

Chiefs Message

Department Profile

Upcoming Events

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Administration
COMMUNICATIONS Department
TSINIKSSINI**

The Blood Tribe Council Review entitled 'TSINIKSSINI' is dedicated to the sharing of information for the people of the Blood Tribe. The move to a magazine format will feature news, stories, articles and an array of items as our way of sharing what is occurring on the Blood reserve and beyond.

We hope you enjoy your magazine and invite any suggestions you may have in improving our coverage on any number of events and activities. The magazine will be printed on a monthly basis and will be distributed to various locations on the reserve.

The magazine is free of charge.

The magazine is published by the Blood Tribe Communications department and is printed by Robin's Southern Printing. The collection of information, photographs and layout of the magazine is from the Blood Tribe Communications department.

We would like to acknowledge Darlene Plume, Senior Executive Officer, the Blood Tribe Chief & Council and the people of the Blood Tribe for your support.

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Lethbridge College President, Tracy Edwards, was bestowed with a Blackfoot name...see page 5



The Lethbridge Action on Racism Circle hosted the second Dialogue on Racism.. see page 7



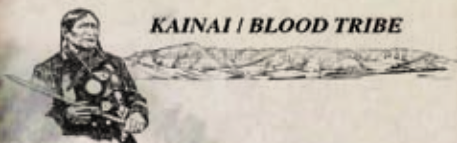
The Blood Tribe Public Works department has an enormous responsibility..see page 8-9



The Siksika Medicine Lodge Youth Residential Treatment Centre will soon see its first group of residents...see page 10



A minor football player already making huge waves on the playing field with sheer size and strength...see page 5



Message from Chief Charles Weasel Head



Ok! greetings to everyone from myself and my family. Also, I extend season's greeting from the Chief & Council, the Blood Tribe Administration and their staff and families. It is at this time that we enjoy the company of one another and share the meaning of Christmas. It is a time to take in the activities of the season, especially with our children who look forward to this time for the whole year. And for many families, it is for the children that Christmas is most important because of the appearance of Santa Claus who brings so much joy to them.

This also gives me an opportunity to report some of the activities of Chief & Council in the past year and some of the significant events that have occurred; events that are important to all of us, especially you, the members of the Blood Tribe.

Since the election a year ago, much has been done in terms of leadership and important developments.

Early in the year, the Council formed their committees and took on the delegated responsibilities of Housing, Economic Development, Health, Education, Social Development, Land Management, Natural Resources, Finance, and Tribal Government, to name a few. There are actually about 29 departments within the Tribal organizations, too numerous for me to go into detail at this time.

As many may have heard, the Tribe has purchased land near Coalhurst, which is a short drive from the City of Lethbridge. This was made possible through the settlement agreement of the Akers Claim which allowed us to purchase over 400 acres of land. This was an obligation by Canada and took years to reach this point. We are looking at number of proposals for the development of this



land and it could provide many opportunities for our members. This is only the beginning and we will keep you updated as this happens.

There is a major development occurring with the First Nations Oil and Gas Money Management Act (FNOGMA) and an Act of Parliament that could allow us to manage our oil and gas resources without the Government intervening as strictly as they do now. Presently, we require Ministerial approval to use our revenues from those resources. If you decide to opt into this, it could provide numerous opportunities that don't presently exist. This decision will be made by the members at a future date in a referendum that is yet to be scheduled. Further details will be disclosed as they become available.

The Tribe is in a number of Economic Development activities, some in proposal form, and others that are taking shape. Obviously, small business development continues to be a priority and a number of small businesses are being developed. On the bigger picture, we are seeing proposals for corporate farming, windpower and industry. There have been others, but they are too sensitive at this time to disclose the information. Unfortunately, the Housing partnership with Morgan Structures



was affected by the global economic recession and it has prevented any growth. Morgan continues to meet their commitments with the Blood Tribe, however, they have not fully launched the housing industry on the reserve as planned. However, housing construction on the reserve continues and we continue to strive to meet the demand in housing. Recently the Federal government approved the renovation of 42 homes under the Canada Economic Action Plan which will see the upgrading of some homes. This has provided a training opportunity for some of the members of the tribe under a Housing and BTEST initiative. Renovations will be done by our own Trades people. Since April of this year, we have been put on alert by the pandemic flu, the H1N1 virus, which has spread worldwide. We have been fortunate that there have not been as many fatalities as in other communities. Our Health Department has administered the vaccine to as many as possible and will continue to do so in the coming months.

The severe weather conditions have presented a major challenge for us. Our Public Works department has been working their utmost to meet the demands of snow removal. Hopefully we will experience better conditions in the coming months.

There is much to be reported and I will continue to do so as the opportunities become available. I have tried to cover some of the developments which affect us here in our community as well as elsewhere.

I welcome this opportunity to wish you well and may the Creator continue to take care of us. On behalf of your council and administration, I wish you all the best this Christmas season.

OLYMPIC TORCH PREPARING TO BURN BRIGHT ON RESERVE



2010 Olympic Torch.

As countries around the world prepare for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics, members of the Blood Tribe are preparing as well. The Olympic torch began its 106 daylong relay journey across Canada on October 30, 2009, and will end in Vancouver on February 12, 2010. The torch will be making its way through 73 Alberta communities, five of which are First Nations communities.

The torch will be making stops in Enoch, Hobbema, Siksika, Stoney and Kainai First Nations as a part of the Olympic journey. On January 18, 2010, the torch will be making its appearance on the Blood reserve. Danielle Vielle, was selected by the Olympic relay torch committee to be the community torchbearer to represent Kainai when the torch makes its way through the reserve. Vielle, who gained prominence in track & field winning five medals during the 2008 North American Indigenous Games in British Columbia, represents the youth and the athletes of southern Alberta as she prepares to carry the torch on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people. Vielle is very honoured and excited to be carrying the torch and to be representing Team Alberta, the Blood reserve and Canada. Vielle is hoping for two of her favorite Canadian athletes, Jarome Iginla (Calgary Flames) and Sidney Crosby (Pittsburgh Penguins), to win the gold in the sport of hockey.

The First Nations presence is predominant in this year's Olympics. The official Olympic logo is an Inuksuk, a symbol of Inuit

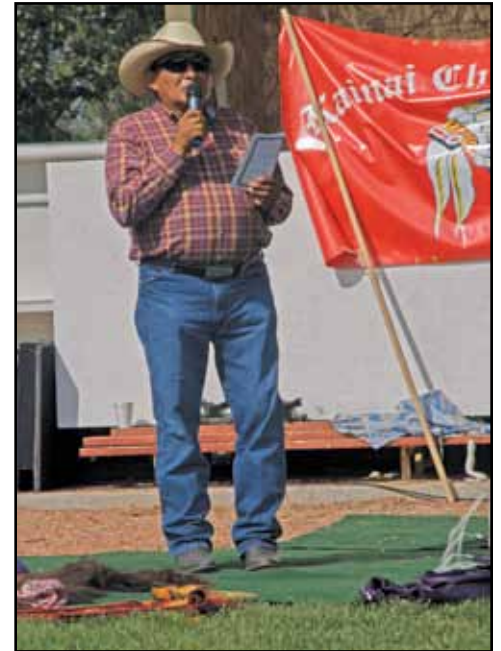
of the northern region of North America. Traditionally these stone sculptures were erected as a landmark to help people navigate their way through the vast arctic landscape. Four First Nations in British Columbia will be hosting the Vancouver Olympics: Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh.

The Olympic Torch celebrations on the Blood reserve will begin in the early morning at approximately 6 a.m. The torchbearer, along with fire-keeper Wilton Goodstriker, will lead a procession of traditional singers, horse and buggy with riders and dignitaries from the Blood Tribe Administration building down to the main highway near the Trading Post. Prior to the torch procession, an elder will give their blessings with a prayer and Blood Chief Charles Weasel Head and Danielle Vielle will give opening remarks. Due to the tremendous journey the Olympic Torch is a part of, the celebrations in the early morning hours will allow the torch to reach other communities who are eagerly anticipating the flame to burn brightly as a part of their own history. The Olympic Torch run will mark a significant event in our history as we join the many provinces and communities across Canada in celebrating an event that joins countries from around the world as they compete in friendly competition.



Danielle Vielle, an athlete who fits the mold of an Olympic athlete, will proudly carry the torch on behalf of the Blood Tribe.

Danielle Vielle would like to acknowledge her mom and family and all those who have given her their never-ending support during her athletic endeavors. She would also like to thank the Blood Tribe Recreation department for their help and support.



Elder Wilton Goodstriker was chosen to be the fire-keeper when the torch is brought to the Blood reserve.



Anyone interested in joining in on the celebrations are encouraged to attend the event. If you require any additional information, please contact the Recreation department at 403.737.3868.

by Sioux Crop Eared Wolf

FIRST NATIONS METIS & INUIT DAY MARKED AT LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE

LC President Receives Honor



Lethbridge College President, Tracy Edwards

Lethbridge College President, Tracy Edwards, was bestowed with a Blackfoot name Matoomikitstaki (First Offering), during the recent First Nations, Metis, Inuit days (FNMI) at the Lethbridge College. This is an honor recognizing her contribution to the aboriginal community and for the students who attend the college.

The traditional naming ceremony was conducted by Blood elder Francis First Charger with the help of War veteran, Alvin Many Chiefs. The naming ceremony was in conjunction with other activities at LC to create an awareness of the aboriginal students' activities, their cultures and history. A mini powwow provided a backdrop for the naming ceremony.

Elder First Charger stated: "I'm honored to be asked to name Tracy Edwards this afternoon," and continued, "Tracy has achieved this, first, by recognizing this as Blackfoot territory, and also, being very accommodating to the First Nations, Metis and Inuit students coming to school here." And in comments made prior to the ceremony, Edwards said, "It really is an honor to be recognized by this community. It speaks to the commitment our college has had to serving our First Nations students."

The name given by First Charger is based on an experience as a spiritual leader and is chosen with great thought and divine inspiration—a name she will carry for the rest of her life.

Chief Charles Weasel Head, Mayor Bob Tarleck and other dignitaries were in attendance at the ceremony. The FNMI days are an annual event on the campus and visitors are invited during the week long function.



Elder Francis First Charger with the assistance of War Veteran, Alvin Many Chief bestows Blackfoot name to Tracy Edwards



Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump exhibit at FNMI days. This was one of many exhibits at the Lethbridge College campus.

by Rick Tailfeathers

BLOODS LINE UP TO RECEIVE DISTRIBUTION

Each Blood member receives \$100 distribution



Hundreds of Blood Tribe members travelled to the Senator Gladstone Hall to pick up their distribution cheques on Tuesday, December 15, despite the frigid temperatures. With over 10,000 registered Blood Tribe persons, the lineups went as smooth as possible with a number of tables set aside for easier access. Many staff members from the Blood Tribe Membership department and staff from the various administrative offices lent a hand to make it smoother for tribal members to get their cheques. With Christmas nearing, many families welcome an additional source of income to help off-set costs usually associated with this time of the year.



The Gladstone Hall was a busy venue as people picked up their distribution gift.



by Tom Russell

LETHBRIDGE HOSTS POTLUCK SUPPER TO DISCUSS RACISM & DISCRIMINATION



The LARC is an active group which promotes goodwill and respect for people and their respective backgrounds.

The Lethbridge Action on Racism Circle hosted the second Dialogue on Racism and Discrimination potluck dinner on Monday, November 23, 2009 in Lethbridge, Alberta. The potluck dinner provides a forum for our community to share ideas and plans for action about racism and discrimination in our community.

The first Dialogue on Racism and Discrimination potluck was held in March of 2009. From the first potluck, a booklet entitled, "Dialogue on Racism: Sharing Salt - A Grassroots Gathering," was created and has since been presented to the City of Lethbridge Council, the Standing Committee on Community and Social Development, and to the Lethbridge Holy Spirit Catholic School Board. In the New Year, we are scheduled to present the booklet to the Lethbridge Public School Board. The first dialogue was attended by approximately 65 people, all of various backgrounds and ethnicities. The information gathered was very helpful. From the dialogue, we were able to formulate a plan of action as to how we, as a small group, could help increase community relationships between all people living in and around Lethbridge. The dialogue was important because we were able to receive input from people that might otherwise not have had a platform to relay their ideas. The dialogue directed the Lethbridge Action on Racism Circle (LARC) to present to governing bodies such as Lethbridge City Council and the School Boards. The dialogue attendees also stated that it is important to have events in the city that would create interaction between all citizens in southern

Alberta. From this request, the idea for the Friendship Festival was born. The Friendship Festival in August, 2009, was an event held in partnership with LARC and the Aboriginal Council of Lethbridge. The event was an outdoor concert held downtown Lethbridge in Galt Gardens. All of these activities have been because of the first dialogue on Racism and Discrimination. The first discussion also requested for a follow-up dialogue to see the progress and changes that may have come about. The LARC has been quite busy going about accomplishing the tasks that were set out at the first dialogue. The second Dialogue on Racism and Dis-

crimination was attended by approximately 45 people. The Mayor of Lethbridge, Bob Tarleck, and the Lethbridge Chief of Police, Tom McKenzie, were among the attendees. The discussions surrounding three questions regarding racism and discrimination in Lethbridge were discussed at each table. The information gathered will again be put into a booklet and shared with the attendees and anyone who wants to see a copy.

If you would like a copy of this booklet please contact Sarah Sweet Grass @ sarah.sweet.grass@bloodtribe.org



Lethbridge Mayor Bob Tarleck supports the efforts of LARC to create interaction of all people in the City of Lethbridge and surrounding communities

by Sarah Sweet Grass

UNSUNG HEROES

Public Works department moving at full tilt to keep up with winter demand

The Blood Tribe Public Works department has an enormous responsibility as a contributor to the safety and well-being of our people. This year, southern Alberta is experiencing winter storms and strong winds which rival the stormy conditions experienced last year. The Blood reserve is situated in an area in which the winds play havoc with the many kilometres of rural roads leading to the homes of tribal members. Many of these roads are in isolated areas and make the drive home often treacherous and dangerous.

Joe Healy, director, Public Works, said his crew and staff have been working around the clock in making roads accessible for the tribal residents. "Many of my staff have been working 18- to 26-hour shifts, trying to keep up with the storm," he said. "This storm was similar to last year, but my staff is fully committed to serving our people. We've been going 24-hours-a-day since Friday (December 4) when the storm blew in, and we're asking the public to be patient with our efforts."

"We're trying our best to keep things moving. Everyone is important on the reserve. We just want everyone to know that. The whole community is important." - Joe Healy

The Public Works department has approximately 20 units operating on a full-time basis trying to keep up with the demands placed upon them by the severe winter conditions. With graders, bull-dozers, scrapers, backhoes and other equipment operating continuously, the Public Works employees are keeping roads open for emergency situations and other vital services which include medical situations and water delivery for houses which rely on cisterns.

"We've got 13 snow removal units going full-time," he said. "And with the water and garbage trucks going, we have about 20 units operating day and night."

Healy said with extreme cold temperatures, the equipment such as hydraulic lines often freezes or ruptures and this causes the pro-

vision of services to slow down. "We have breakdowns nearly every day, but our mechanics are doing their best to keep everything moving, especially in this cold weather. Many of our units depend on hydraulic-based equipment, and these tend to break down in these cold temperatures. These are things our people have to understand, is that anything mechanical often breaks down, especially when they are in use 24-hours-a-day."

Healy acknowledges the tremendous efforts from his staff and said positive comments from people go a long way in boosting the moral of employees who are going the extra mile in providing a much needed service. "My staff deserves a lot of credit for the work they've been doing," said Healy. "Everyone from the finance department to the receptionists, mechanics and water, garbage and heavy equipment operators have been going strong ever since the storm blew in. We're trying our best to keep things moving. Everyone is impor-



Huge drifts were created by the strong winds that blew in after the severe winter storm. The staff of the Public Works department worked tirelessly to clear the roads for the people.

AT IT AGAIN

tant on the reserve. We just want everyone to know that. The whole community is important.”

If an emergency arises, Healy said people can contact the Firehall in Stand Off at 403.737.2102. The emergency services will then contact Public Works who will then assess the situation and, if required, send an emergency crew to the distress point to begin clearing the roads to allow for an ambulance or emergency vehicle to reach the area. “If an emergency call comes in, it’s even better if they call directly to the Firehall. That’s how we’ve been answering the real emergencies,” he said. “The Firehall will then call us and we will escort them out, clear the roads, and making sure they get in and out as fast as we can. We are asking the people to be patient. I hope they understand the many emergencies and other situations that require attention right away.”

Healy said his staff is truly dedicated to their jobs. “We are doing the best we can. Everyone is doing long hours, they’re dedicated to getting the job done, but, like I said, we are human and I can’t be putting my staff at risk. I have to think about their health and safety,” he said. “But, like I said, I’m asking everyone to stock up on food and water and to be patient with us. Everyone is important to us.”

If you are experiencing emergencies during any winter storm, you are encouraged to contact the Fire Hall at 403-737-2102. The staff at the Fire Hall will then direct your call to the appropriate service providers. The Public Works Department asks you to be safe and to be prepared for any emergencies.



Roads and driveways to many homes on the reserve were often blocked with deep snow during the storm.

by Tom Russell

SIKSIKA YOUTH TREATMENT CENTRE TO OPEN ITS DOORS IN JANUARY 2010

Youth Treatment Centre to help with treatment on addictions



The New Year will mark a year of healing when the treatment centre opens its doors.

The Siksika Medicine Lodge Youth Residential Treatment Centre will soon see its first group of residents begin treatment on their addiction problems.

The youth residential treatment centre can accept up to three Siksika residents and seven youths from other First Nation communities in the 10 bedroom units.

With a concentration on Siksika spirituality and culture, this new in-patient treatment centre for Aboriginal youth dealing with mental health and addiction issues is one of several initiatives that will lead the way in their programs.

Anita Eagle Bear, youth residential treatment executive director from the Blood Tribe, says youth residences that have proven the most successful have been the ones that have incorporated spirituality.

“Our sister organizations as well as the adult treatment centres have learned from experience that the only real success in terms of helping people rehabilitate are the ones that are spiritually and culturally based,” Eagle Bear says.

There is a 30 per cent success rate with First Nation members in the mainstream treatment centres compared to an 80 per cent plus success rate in the more spiritual and cultural First Nation based treatment centres.

As a result from the other nine youth treatment centres from across Canada, the facts clearly show that a lot of the youth have a ‘loss in identity’ which goes back to the boarding schools when their parents had a loss with their identity.

The youth residence will also work with the family, as there are family rooms set-up,

because part of the program is that parents are caregivers and their participation in the program is a key component.

Deanna Many Shots, the program treatment manager, says the important part of the treatment centre is incorporating the Siksika community as a partnership.

“We will be able to offer the community outreach and we do have things in the works,” Many Shots says. “We like to incorporate a 1-800 line for youth that are in distress in-and-around the area, at community and evening circles. There will be the presentation concept where we will go out to the community and deliver the information on addictions and partner up with AADAC to also focus on after care.”

Originally, there were only two beds allocated to Siksika Members, but after count-

less negotiations the treatment centre was able to confirm three beds for Siksika members, which is considered a high percentage for a community.

Through past experience, when there were more clients from the home communities, the clients tended to stick with their own group rather than partnering with a group as a whole.

“We will focus mainly on the addictions and strong family support once they leave here,” Many Shots says. “Solvent abuse will be the key focus for this centre, but at the same time, we will not have enough clients to fill those 10 beds with solvent abuse addictions. So, we’ve had to open it up to a broader theme with alcohol and drug related addictions.”

One hundred percent of the staff will be First Nation because that always makes a positive impact because the youth are able to relate more with the workers and staff and have those positive role models to look up to.

The treatment centre will alternate with both male and female groups of ten. It is a four month in-residence program with January 11, 2010, being the first official day. Staff will open its doors by serving First Nation, Métis and Inuit youth between the ages of 12 to 17.

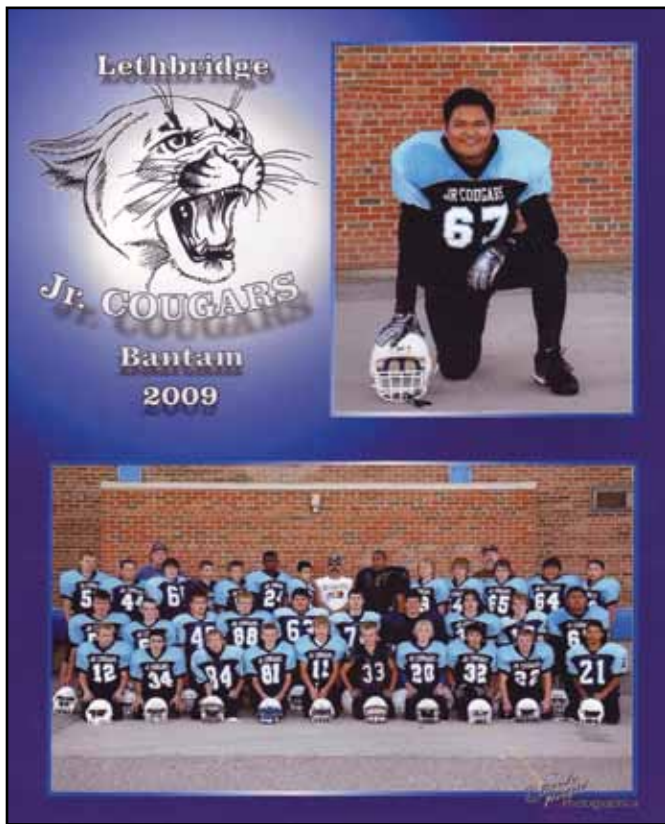
The overall purpose of this program is to provide a holistic substance abuse treatment program to youth across Canada.



Blood member Anita Eagle Bear, executive director, and Deanna Many Shots, manager, prepare for the opening in January, 2010.

by Kelly Many Guns

DAY CHIEF WINS SAMFA AWARD AS LEAGUES TOP GRADE SEVEN



Bovaughn Day Chief poses with coach Dave Overes and the Honorable Judge Ron Jacobson. The trophy is presented in memory of Ron Jacobson Jr.

A minor football player already making huge waves on the playing field with sheer size and strength is Bovaughn Day Chief. Playing with the Lethbridge Jr. Cougars on both the offense and defensive lines, Day Chief, who is only 13 years old, but stands 6'2" and weighs 245 lbs., is a formidable figure to opposing teams.

As a youngster playing Atom football, Bovaughn was actually prohibited from carrying the football as a running back because he could literally trample opposing team players who tried to tackle him. During one game, a group of opposing team players had no alternative but to 'gang-tackle' Day Chief. As they managed to wrestle him to the ground, a player from the other team lay there in great pain after the dust had settled. He had suffered a broken leg after Day Chief landed on him.

As an athlete in grade seven, Day Chief is quite a celebrity as coaches and players from visiting teams are quite familiar with him. Proud parents Barney and Sandra (Sam) Day Chief travel with their son to every game and practice. Barney said his son began playing in grade five and was placed in Pee wee football, even though he was still eligible to play with the Atoms.

While in the Pee wee division, he again was placed in the Bantam division due to his size and strength. "He was only 12, in grade six, and he played against 15 year-old kids," said Barney in recalling his son's progress in minor football. "This year, he was still eligible to play Pee wee, but they moved him up to play Bantam full-time. He plays on both the offense and defensive lines and he's huge. He's got a unique name and everyone knows who he is."

“Everyone thinks he’s an older guy, but he’s still very young. He’s my youngest.” - Barney Day Chief

Because of his athletic abilities and prowess on the field, Day Chief's talent makes him a clear stand-out as he defends his quarterback, or rushes in as a defensive tackle. "He's always getting double- or even triple-teamed," said his father Barney. "No kidding, he's massive. He's an animal on defense."

As a Pee wee playing in the higher level Bantam category, Day Chief's aggressive-

ness caught the eye of league officials who kept their attention on the youthful talent. He was selected as a member of the Bantam all-star team for southern Alberta. In earning a spot on the all-star team, he secured the distinction of being the only grade seven minor football player to ever receive such accolades. His selection on the team was a lofty choice as he was among the top players from the minor football leagues south of Calgary. As well, he was named the top grade seven Southern Alberta Minor Football Association football player for 2009, and is considered to be a prospect which has many coaches drooling at the thought of Day Chief playing for their team.

"He's only in grade seven," said Barney Day Chief. "He hasn't even reached high school yet, but at the SAMFA banquet, everyone was asking him to play on their teams. Everyone thinks he's an older guy, but he's still very young. He's my youngest."

As an athlete who has the agility and skills required to play in a rugged and aggressive sport, Day Chief will be sure to have quite a number of offers from coaches and schools who recognize what size, strength and heart can do for them.

by Tom Russell

DEPARTMENT FEATURE HUMAN RESOURCES

BLOOD TRIBE ADMINISTRATION



The Blood Tribe Human Resources is a multi-functional department of the Blood Tribe Administration. Under the supervision of Director Katie Rabbit-Young Pine, the Human Resources maintain and ensure employee compliance with administrative policies & procedures. The current policy & procedures manual, approved and ratified by Chief & Council on October 1, 2004, is currently under review and revision and will reflect current policy trends according to tribal and the minimum labor standards. With over 350 full-time employees, and a huge number of seasonal and temporary employees and summer students, the Human Resource department provides information sessions with the employees to familiarize them with the administrative guidelines required to function in the workplace. Each new employee is provided with an orientation and is presented with a policy manual for reference. Within the policy & procedure manual include the benefits each employee is entitled to during their employment. For example, an employee's earned holidays are a benefit. Also included in the employee benefits are sick days, spiritual leave, bereavement leave and other benefits related to employment.

In an organization of this size, with thirteen departments within the administration, the employees are required to enroll in a pension which is designed to provide the possibility of receiving an income upon retirement. As each new employee is documented, they are provided with the proper forms to complete on the subject of their pension. The employee determines how much of a contribution they want to provide toward their retirement. The Blood Tribe then matches the employee contribution and invests on their behalf into a registered



Katie Rabbit-Young Pine, director, Human Resources.

plan to reach a potential maximum return at retirement.

The Human Resources are involved with the employee recruitment process whereby employees seeking employment go through an interview method. The Blood Tribe is committed to employing candidates who have the qualifications to fulfill their duties and requirements of their employment.

There is a training and development component which provides information to employees as a way of keeping employees current with any new changes in the workplace. For instance, employees who are working with computers will benefit from any upgrades to the ever-changing software in making work-related tasks more understandable. Employees have the opportunity to acquire skills needed to perform their duties to the best of their abilities in serving the best interests of the Blood Tribe.

The records management office of the Human Resources, which maintains strict adherence to confidentiality, has relevant and pertinent information on each employee. The employee information is important to monitor the different roles of each individual and the information is used to track an employee's employment lifeline from their first day of employment to their last day in the workplace. For example, an

employee must go through a probationary period and has to work for one year to earn their three weeks of holidays. After the sixth year of employment, the employee earns an additional one week of holidays. This type of information entered into the Human Resource database system keeps track of an employee's employment history.

For more information on your Human Resource department, please contact us at 403.737.8118.

The Blood Tribe Human Resource department Mission Statement is as follows:

The Blood Tribe Human Resources acknowledges and recognizes the value and important contributions of each employer and employee within the Blood Tribe Administration.

The Human Resources serves and protects all aspects of Blood Tribe Administration including senior management and directors, supervisors and the various categories of employees.

The awareness through the application of policies and procedures provides the framework for human resources and assistance.

HUMAN RESOURCES RECOGNIZES DEPARTMENTS FOR ROLE IN THE PROVISION OF VITAL SERVICES

The Blood Tribe Human Resource department recently acknowledged a number of departments for their role and participation in administrative and public service related responsibilities during the annual dinner sponsored by the Blood Tribe Administration. Katie Rabbit-Young Pine, director, Human Resources, said a different approach this year determined who received recognition awards.

“We decided to recognize Blood Tribe Administration departments who excelled in certain areas within the operational functions of the organization, as well as provision of community service,” she said. “We looked at hours of work, arriving to work early, timeliness of feedback and participation and efficient implementation of their roles and responsibilities.”

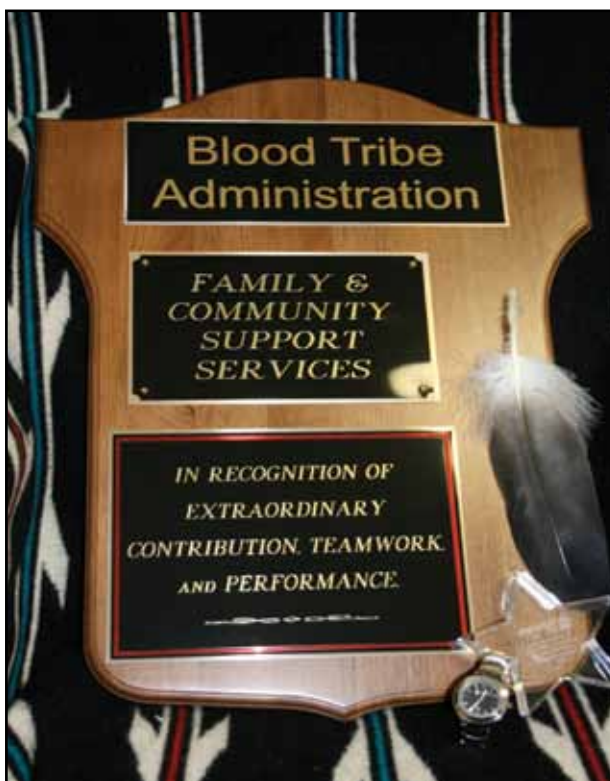
The Blood Tribe recognition awards are presented to the departments who meet certain standards in providing services to the public. Among the area of interest the Human Resources review include the department’s role in the community, their involvement in policy review, team work and employee motivation.

Rabbit-Young Pine said some of the positive changes the Human Resources are involved with focus on three main themes of activity. “The focus is to promote teamwork, a sense of responsibility to our community members and the importance of putting in a full days work,” she said. “We hope to continue with this approach and look forward to this new way of recognizing each department. When this idea was initiated in January, the Directors were very enthused in becoming involved in new ways of measuring their accomplishments.”

Rabbit-Young Pine would like to give special recognition to her staff for working so hard this past year. They have stepped up to the task of providing advisory services for the employers and employees: Tammy Weasel Moccasin, Marlene Blood, and Lacey Wells. Human Resources is the department who tallies the scores and as a result are not included in the recognition awards.

This year, the Family & Community Support Services received the top-honors as the department who were recognized for their teamwork, performance and contribution to the community.

Following is a list of the Blood Tribe Administration departments who were recognized in their respective categories.



COMMUNITY

Public Works:

Director Joe Healy

Social Development:

Director Velma Eagle Bear

Elizabeth Day Chief (acting)

Recreation:

Director Marcella Knife

POLICY REVIEW

Economic Development:

Director Rob Crow

Tribal Government:

Coord. Annabel Crop Eared Wolf

BTEST:

Director Wayna Beebe

TEAM WORK

Finance:

Real Estate

Senior Finance Officer Ronnie Shade

Membership

Director Audrey White Quills

Management

Public Relations:

Director Rick Tailfeathers

TIME SHEETS

Lands:

Director Elliot Fox

Housing:

Director Melvin Spear Chief

by Tom Russell

Message from Councillor Ron Thunderchief



Oki Kainai:

With the Christmas season only weeks away, I would like to extend an early Season's Greetings from my family to yours, and send warmest wishes that your holidays are filled with great blessings and happiness. The first year of this four year term is fast approaching and as a member of the Economic Development Committee, it is with great respect that I share with you, my fellow members of the Blood Tribe, the 'work in progress' of the many entities that are within the Economic Development Committee. As my fellow councillors and I have promised, we are pushing diligently for transparency and accountability. To begin, we have initiated an environmental department scan of the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project. BTAP is one of our entities which are to provide revenue to the Blood Tribe. Through this scan, we have discovered issues that need to be addressed to enhance efficiency, profit and performance. We will continue this process with the other departments and welcome the support from the staff and community. Working together as a team on this endeavor has been a very satisfying experience that will be sure to have

long-term and positive benefits for the tribe, because, after all, there is no 'I' in 'team.'

An example of positive changes is in wind power farming. We, the committee, are working hand-in-hand with Economic Development in attaining a productive and beneficial business relationship that will see the Blood Tribe profit and prosper, while maintaining the best interests of our fellow membership. Designation of land for commercial use is another 'work in progress' through our partnership and team effort with the Economic Development Committee and department. This effort will open many doors for major job creation and employment opportunities for tribal members. As a small business entrepreneur, I will offer my full support in this endeavor and hope my fellow members of the Blood Tribe will do the same with a 'Yes' vote when this is brought back to the membership by way of a referendum.

Other committees I was elected to be part of are the Blood Tribe Police Commission and the Housing ad-hoc committee. I take these positions very seriously, as I do any other position I maintain, and would like to pursue with my fellow committee members an environment of teamwork which will generate positive effects for the people of the Blood Tribe for many years to come.

I take my duties and responsibilities very seriously and have missed a minimal amount of meetings due to illness, prioritizing the importance of a meeting that I attend, and or other business affairs. I do this to minimize the amount of travel funds for unnecessary travel. It is encouraging to see a few of my fellow colleagues be conscientious about

reducing travel costs for unnecessary travel also.

An area of concern for me is the ongoing social issues that plague our place we call home. For far too long, we have blamed other outside factors for misleading our youth when we need to begin looking at ourselves. By working together as one large community, one large family, we can defeat the problems of drugs and alcohol that are overpowering our youth. I truly believe it has no better starting point than with our leaders, both political and spiritual, branching out into the communities to reach our members as a method of becoming positive and influential role models which will encourage our youth to want to continue on these same positive paths. It is never too late to begin respecting one another and helping to nurture safer communities.

In closing, I will end by sharing a saying that I have always followed and has helped me become the person I am today and of which I consistently share with my colleagues: "Never go on hearsay. If you hear from one, you have to hear from the other; and always get your facts and findings on paper or in writing." I would also like to thank my wife, children and extended family for their never-ending support and to my fellow people of the Blood Tribe for your trust you have bestowed upon me.

I will continue to hold my position as your councillor with great respect, honour and honesty.

Ron Thunderchief

The boxing story in the November issue should have been credited to Steve Frank. Tsinikssini apologizes for this oversight.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

MESSAGE FROM YOUR BLOOD TRIBE CHIEF & COUNCIL



Top L-R:
Josh Curly Rider, Dexter Bruised Head
Ron Thunderchief, Sheldon Day Chief
Jim Gladstone, Andrew Bull Calf

Bottom L-R:
Kirby Many Fingers, Marcel Weasel Head
Dolores Day Chief, Charles Weasel Head
Rod First Rider, Ira Tailfeathers
Franklyn White Quills

The Blood Tribe Chief & Council extend our Season's Greetings to the people of the Blood Tribe. We also extend our greetings to our many friends and relatives in the Blackfoot Confederacy and Treaty Seven.


On behalf of the employees of the Blood Tribe Administration, we hope your Christmas celebrations are safe, happy and festive. We look forward to meeting with you in the New Year and wish you and your loved ones joy and good blessings.

May our Creator watch over each and every one of us.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



December 2009

**MEDICINE TREE CENTRE
WARRIORS BOXING CLUB**



Now accepting new members
for the 2009/2010 boxing season

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!



Currently training for the 2010 Alberta Provincials
to be held at the Lethbridge YMCA Nov 21 & 22, 2009
(Our club is co-hosting this event)

Will also be competing in various other major events
throughout Western Canada as well as our own:

Warriors Boxing Classic Feb 2010

Warriors train out of the Medicine Tree Centre every
Mon & Wed 6pm - 8pm located at 1709 2nd Ave South, Leth

For more info call Travis at 403-328-3414 or e-mail circle_of_the_sun@ymho.ca

**Do you have a story idea
or want to promote your
activity or event?
If you do, please contact
Blood Tribe Communica-
tions at 403-737-8130.
The Blood Tribe Maga-
zine 'Tsinikssini' is an
effective way of reaching
your audiences.**



**BLOOD TRIBE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

NOTICE

Are you interested in starting your own business or
expanding an existing one? We now have **SMALL
BUSINESS GRANT APPLICATIONS** available to assist in
your endeavor.

Grant Programs:

- REGULAR SMALL BUSINESS GRANT
- ELDER SMALL BUSINESS GRANT
- EMERGENCY SMALL BUSINESS GRANT


ALSO AVAILABLE:

- Small business planning workshops-
- Business plan feedback & consultation-
- Business Resource Center-

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION:
Friday, February 5, 2009 @ 4:30pm
(NO LATE EXCEPTIONS)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT NORMA WOLFCHILD,
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AT (403) 737-8124
Or come see us upstairs at the Morgan Building Systems Canada Building, aka former
Kainai Industries Building.

**STANDOFF WINTER SERIES #1
DECEMBER 26, 2009**
Kainai Memorial Agriplex
Slack 12:00pm
Performance 6:00pm
Indian Rodeo Cowboy Association
Approved



Major Events \$100.00 Added
Team Roping \$200.00 Added
Jr. Event \$50.00 Added
Sr. Men's Breakaway \$50.00 Added

Entries Open:
Indian Rodeo Cowboy Association Office
December 21, 2009 10:00am - 3:00pm
1-866-975-2464

Standoff Winter Dates
December 26, 2009
January 30, 2010
February 27, 2010
March 27, 2010

Must attend all rodeos to qualify for event buckles and hi-point
saddle, ground rules will be posted at rodeo for winter series
For further information contact Clarence Black Water @
(403)737-3544