

BLOOD TRIBE COUNCIL REVIEW

TSINIKSSINI

Blood Tribe Communications

VOL. 1 ISSUE 5 OCTOBER 2009

FREE

A man wearing a white t-shirt and a blue visor is focused on working on a bronze sculpture of a horse. He is using a wooden tool to refine the details of the horse's head. The sculpture is mounted on a wooden block. The background is a dark, wood-paneled wall.

MIKE DAY CHIEF

BLOOD TRIBE ARTIST

**Fifteen Year Old
Siksika Bullrider
Heading to Vegas**

**Saipoyi Students
Honor Blood Tribe's
Eldest Man**

**Indian Residential
Schools Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**DEPARTMENT
PROFILE:
HOUSING**



**Published by Blood Tribe
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.

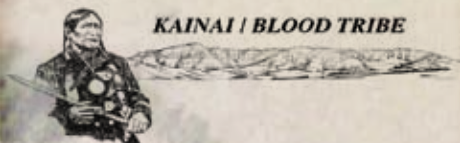
The magazine is free of charge.

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Members of the three-person commission, that were mandated to seek truth and reconciliation for residential school survivors, met with elders and survivors September 23 -24... see page 7



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Message from Blood Tribe Council



Oki my friends and members of the Blood Tribe:

Chief and Council have been in office since December 1, 2008. It has been a real learning experience for most of us and I'm sure the next three years will fly by fast. That's not good news for me as I'm over 60 and the oldest on council.

I would like to thank my elders who have given me much guidance and all the members of the Blood Tribe who have put their trust in me. In my campaign, I promised that my interests were in providing a better place to live, to make life easier and to always "do the right thing." To accomplish that goal it is sometimes very difficult because it is easier to fall into the way things have always operated than to change the system. However, I will continue to maintain my efforts as I know that I can make some changes that are beneficial to all our people.

The Council is now being faced with some serious issues and, hopefully, with the Creator's help, we can make the right decisions that are in the best interests of our people. Some of these issues are the nurses seeking an application for unionization; housing is always an issue and a strategic plan is being developed; addressing the deficit issue; policing and treatment of our people; revising by-laws to address the mandates of entities, departments and boards, especially in the hiring of Chief Executive Officers and keeping within their budgets. These are only a few of our problems, but the biggest problem is the pillar system and the problems associated with it. Change is difficult and unless the whole Council is in favour, change will be slow. I am sitting on the Tribal Government pillar and most of its entities, the police commission and the ad-hoc committee on housing. If any of you members need to talk to me concerning these matters, please feel free to call me at 403.330.8331. I have made it a personal commitment to answer all calls. My immediate concern is in education and attendance. Somehow the value of education has taken a back seat in our lives. Education is the only way to prosperity. If we don't make education our main priority, then we will continue to live in the third world. There are only a few minor changes that need to be made that will drastically change our lives and these changes are the responsibility of the parents. Never allow your children to miss school. The biggest problem are the parents not getting up in the morning to send their kids to school. You are only hurting your kids and instilling bad habits. Second, parents need to make sure that your kids do at least 1 hour of homework every day. Parents, do these two things and you will see a dramatic change in your children. You have a responsibility as a parent to be a good parent, so let's make a concentrated effort to take this responsibility seriously.

Finally, my other big concern is governance and the direction we are headed. As most of you are aware, a survey was done and the Blood Tribe was 94th out of 98th, so we need to do a lot of work in this area. I am also greatly concerned with the spending that is taking place and the lack of accountability. To that end, I addressed Chief and Council on the October 5 meetings and a date has been selected to have a tentative Band meeting to present the budget and audit on November 19th at 1:00 pm in the Old Saipoyii Gym.

I know that this is only a short note, however, you can see that our responsibility is great and I feel that I can only to continue to fight for a change for the better.

Well Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and I hope that next year will be all that you asked for. Remember to pray every day to the Creator to help you and your family and for others who are in need.

Respectfully yours,
Councillor Jim Gladstone

BRONZE SCULPTOR BRINGS LIFE AS AN ARTIST TO HIS CREATIONS



Mike Day Chief, in the living room of his ranch-style home, progressed from oil painting to bronze sculpting. His artwork is increasingly gaining popularity on an international level.

Being raised in the wide open expanse of the prairies in the heart of Blackfoot territory, it only seemed natural for an artist of the Blood reserve to use the traditional themes and motifs of the horse, his culture and traditional lifestyle as an expression of his art. Mike Day Chief, bronze sculptor, has dedicated the past twenty-two years in bringing his images to life in an art-form which is time-consuming, deliberate and gratifying.

“You tend to lose yourself in your pieces,” he explained of the concentration to detail while working on his art. “I just kind of lose myself in it. I can work on a piece, sometimes, for 16-hours-a-day because you have to get things in perspective. It’s like a high. You bring yourself into another place.” Day Chief explained that each piece he works on requires much attention to perspective, a term which describes how each figure is presented as it would be in real life. “The main thing is to have your perspective right. What I mean by perspective is that everything is balanced,” he described in sharing

the way he views his work. “For example, if you are working on a piece such as a cowboy riding a horse, you want to get the right perspective--the man isn’t bigger than the horse--that’s what I mean by perspective. I think the most important thing is to get your perspective right.”

Once Day Chief envisions what his next piece will be, he usually sketches his ideas onto paper. He then begins shaping a wire frame, and then fashions his object with clay into what image he will eventually develop. After his piece is complete, he delivers it to a foundry in Kalispel, Mont., where it is cast into the completed bronze figure. He said the staff at the foundry and other artists who do their business there are noticing his maturing technique and talent. “Where I cast, they have some of those artists there. I’ve met with them and I’ve talked with them and they critique my pieces, and I’ve heard a lot of positive comments,” he said upon hearing what others in the casting business are saying of his work. “Even the people at the Foundry; they’ve

“I just kind of lose myself in it. I can work on a piece, sometimes, for 16-hours-a-day because you have to get things in perspective. It’s like a high. You bring yourself into another place.”

done so many pieces from other artists, so when I hear it from them that I have progressed so much from the times I have been there, is a big positive for me.”

Day Chief recalled a time when he was at an art show in Great Falls, Mont., and seen a piece he had sold which was in the possession of an art dealer. “There was an art dealer from Arkansas, and I noticed he had one of my pieces with him,” he said. “And I asked him where he came across this piece. He said he was at an art show in Arkansas and there was another art dealer who had it. So, I don’t know how it got all the way down there. It’s hard for me to follow where they go once they are sold.”

Day Chief said in reflection of how his work has been influenced by the people who have very close to him as a young man, and now as a grandfather. “My mother (the late Jane Day Chief) helped me a lot in understanding our culture, so she was a big influence in my life,” he said in acknowledgment of the guidance and support he has received. “My wife Crystal and my own family are a big part of my life, and also, the people at the Foundry. They’ve really helped me in bringing out the best in my work.”

In the present, Day Chief is writing a book on his years spent in the residential school and is a rancher raising purebred Black Angus cows on his ranch in the Old Agency area of the Blood reserve. His art continues to be much sought-after by private collectors and museums from around the world.

AKERS TRUST 1 & 2 ANNOUNCE HISTORIC PURCHASE OF LANDS NEAR LETHBRIDGE



Chief Charles Weasel Head, seen here being interviewed by media, announces Akers land purchases to the public.

After months of negotiations and deliberations, the Akers Trust group has finalized the deal and has purchased land northwest of Lethbridge. The land purchase was in fulfillment of the crown obligation to compensate the Blood Tribe for land that was lost in 1892. The Blood Tribe is looking forward to the development of those lands in the coming years. The next step would be to convert it to reserve status through the 'Addition to Reserve' provision under the Indian Act. A yes vote would be required by the members of the Tribe. The acquisition of the land expands the boundaries of the reserve and provides many social and economic opportunities. Members of the surrounding communities were invited to share this historic event.



Story by Rick Tailfeathers

Dalai Lama Received by Treaty 7 Spiritual Leaders



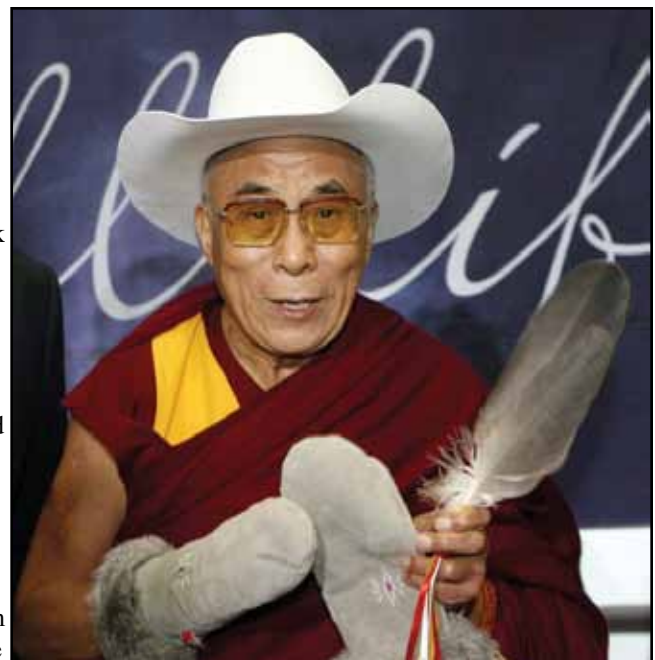
*A delegation of First Nations' Spiritual leaders are seen here presenting his holiness with traditional gifts.
l-r Tom Crane Bear, Rod First Rider, Leroy Little Bear.*

The Dalai Lama, top spiritual leader for the Buddhist Religion, was met by Treaty 7 spiritual leaders as he stepped off the plane at the Calgary Airport on September 30, 2009--his first visit to the city in nearly 30 years. This was a great honor for the First Nations' community and a historic event, since the Dalai Lama is generally restricted in who he meets in his travels. It was reported that his holiness has a great respect for Native spiritual beliefs.

The Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader later brought his message of peace to a crowd at the Pengrowth Saddledome on Wednesday afternoon, giving a public address as part of a two-day visit to the City for a University of Calgary conference called NOW. He spoke to the audience of peace, not only on a global, national and family level, but on a personal one. "We can say violence is generally speaking out of anger, hatred. Peace is out of compassion. So therefore, genuine peace [comes] through compassion. In other words, external, long-lasting genuine peace

mostly comes through internal peace." He also joked with the audience that he has no healing power, as demonstrated by his need to have gall bladder surgery last year, but later spoke of his quick recovery. "Not because of my healing power, but because of my peace of mind," he said.

Earlier in the day, Mayor Dave Bronconnier plopped the city's iconic white cowboy hat on the Dalai Lama's head during the same welcoming at the airport. The Dalai Lama, who has been in exile from his country of Tibet for the past 50 years, last visited Calgary in 1980.



Dalai Lama wearing the Calgary white stetson and wearing mittens as a gift from the Piikani Nation, is holding an eagle feather presented by elders.

Story by Rick Tailfeathers

Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission Visits Treaty 7 Area



Commissioner Marie Wilson, Commissioner chairman Justice Murray Sinclair and Chief Wilton Littlechild, Commissioner.

The newly-appointed Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), created to delve into the dark history of Indian residential schools in Canada, attended a two-day Treaty 7 TRC Gathering on September 22-23, 2009, in Calgary. The two-day event was hosted by Treaty 7 Management Corporation and the Treaty 7 Indian Residential School Committee.

The Commission was established as an independent body as part of a class-action settlement stemming from the government-funded, church-run residential schools where some students were abused physically and emotionally.

The five-year \$60-million Commission is charged with collecting stories from victims of abuse in the residential school system and writing a report for the government.

Appointed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in June were: Justice Murray Sinclair of Manitoba, Marie Wilson, a former journalist based in Yellowknife, and Chief Wilton Littlechild, lawyer and former Alberta Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations. Former TRC Commission chairman Harry Laforme resigned last October and the other two commissioners quickly tendered their resignations after infighting about their role and mandate.

In addressing about 100 former residential school students from Kainai, Piikani, Siksika, Tsuu T'ina and Stoney, Commission chairman Murray Sinclair said the Commission has a responsibility to create an accurate historical record and provide an opportunity to heal for those who participate.

“At the end of the day, five years from now, will not all be healed? We will not all be reconciled. But at least we will have had an opportunity to have a conversation.”

The Treaty 7 Indian Residential School Committee is composed of Resolution Health Support Workers (RHSW), Cultural Support Providers (CSP), and supervisors from the five First Nations in southern Alberta. The RHSW primary role is to provide emotional and wellness support for former residential school students who are eligible for the Common Experience Payment (CEP), Independent Assessment Process (CIP), and Truth & Reconciliation Commission event and commemoration activities. The RHSW's from Kainai include Flora Scout, David Good Rider and supervisor Patty Wells who will be situated at the Kainai Wellness Centre. The Treaty 7 Management Corporation RHSW's will include Oliver Shouting, Pablo Russell and Anne Crane. Jackie Red Crow is the supervisor for the Treaty 7 RHSW program. Their office is located in Calgary.

The Cultural Support Providers role is to provide traditional counseling and cultural support for former residential school students who need this type of support. The Kainai CSP's are Camille and Lucy Russell and Ike Eagle Speaker. Their supervisor is Gerri Eagle Speaker, Director, NIHB, BTDH, and they are located at the Blood Tribe Health Centre.



Cultural support provider Camille Russell and Oliver Shouting, resolution health support worker, read statement from community members.

Other speakers included Kathleen Mahoney, lead negotiator for the Indian Residential School Agreement with the Assembly of First Nations, and Dr. Deborah Pace, clinical consultant with Alberta Health Services, who provided a presentation on the effects of residential schooling on First Nation's children today.

Five former residential school students from the five First Nations in southern Alberta shared individual stories about their healing journeys: Sky Blue and Sage Morin, Calgary Métis Family Services, recited poems about residential schools. Charlene Hellson, Aboriginal Mental Health Coordinator with Alberta Health Services, delivered a comical presentation entitled 'Healing Through Humor.'

The first TRC meeting will be held in Winnipeg this spring.

Story by Rick Tailfeathers

PEIGAN NATION EMBRACES PARTNERSHIPS IN DEVELOPING JOB SKILLS FOR MEMBERS



MP Ted Menzies and Chief Reg Crowshoe are seen here with MLA Evan Berger, Jim Swag and Peigan Councilors Adam North Peigan and Herman Many Guns as they cut the ceremonial red ribbon in recognition of the Piikani training initiative. The program trainees are preparing to build 12 new houses.

A skills training project on the Piikani Nation is instilling a fresh wave of optimism in developing job skills for Peigan members seeking a possible career in the trades sector. The Piikani training initiative developed by the Piikani Employment Services, under the guidance of Manager Jim Swag, brought together a number of partners including the federal and provincial governments, Alberta Employment & Immigration, Indian & Northern Affairs Canada, Red Crow Community College and the Lethbridge Community College in an effort to stimulate the employment and housing sectors on the reserve.

Swag, who was the driving force in bringing the major partners together, said the 48-week training project involving approximately 40 participants began as an opportunity to prepare Peigan Nation members to meet their housing needs. "In 2008, I met with Alberta (Employment & Immigration) and the Piikani Housing Committee to see how we could train our people to become involved in home renovations and constructing houses," he recalled of their initial venture in identifying solutions which would meet their immediate and long-range goals. "What I'm hoping to do is to address

our housing issues so that our trainees can become involved in constructing homes, assisting in renovations and to acquire certification which will help them find employment both on-and-off the reserve."

During their ribbon-cutting ceremony, Chief Reg Crowshoe acknowledged all the guests, trainees and Piikani members in attendance and said leadership has given their approval to the administration to continue pursuing positive and creative approaches in meeting the Nations' needs. "I would like to acknowledge leadership (Council) for allowing management to start looking at partners, and supporting these kinds of projects and supporting management to be able to pursue the direction leadership is looking at," he said. "This is just an example of how partnerships and networking can work for the community." Chief Crowshoe also thanked the federal and provincial governments and the partners for their support in helping the Piikani people move forward with this project.

Evan Berger, MLA for Livingstone-Fort Macleod, is also a member of the MLA committee on First Nations, Metis and Inuit workforce planning initiative, who have been conducting meetings across Alberta

in addressing employment possibilities for First Nations' peoples. "We are talking to people in the aboriginal communities about ways to build participation in the workforce," he said. "We can achieve that goal of improving employment rates for First Nations' communities through partnerships like we are witnessing here today."

The participants of the skills training program have constructed three buildings and are preparing to build 12 homes for Peigan members in the near future. Each of the trainees can acquire skills in carpentry, electrical, plumbing and welding. At the conclusion of the presentations, the Chief and Housing Committee members, along with the federal and provincial government performed a ribbon-cutting ceremony in progressing the skills training project.

Swag acknowledged the efforts and dedication of the Piikani Employment Services staff for their efforts in realizing their goal of introducing a project for the benefit of the Piikani Nation.

Story by Tom Russell



FIFTEEN YEAR OLD SIKSIKA BULLRIDER HEADING TO THE IRCA FINALS IN VEGAS



Young Travis Maguire hopes to be the youngest bull rider to bring home an INFR World's title.

He is the youngest Indian Rodeo Cowboy Association (IRCA) Bull Riding Champion to qualify for Las Vegas--and he did it with three solid rides.

Siksika's own Travis Maguire, a 15-year-old grade 11 student of the Siksika Nation High School had the best score of 79 points on a bull named 'Silver Sans' to take the overall championship at the recent IRCA championships at the Bears paw Arena in Morley. "My thoughts were just to have fun and think of it as another rodeo," Maguire said. "I just went in thinking I could win." Maguire will travel to Las Vegas, Nevada, for the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) along with year-end Bull Riding points-leader, Tuck Johnson of Montana. Maguire, a rookie in the Bull Riding event, will surely get a lot of attention when he arrives in Las Vegas.

"I'm hoping to do as good as I can and represent Siksika to the best of my ability. I also want to thank my parents Debbie and Joe Maguire for driving me to all the rodeos this past year."

Maguire also placed second overall in Boys

Steer Riding to take home a little over \$2200, which will go towards his trip to the INFR finals.

His future goals are to continue with his education and attend College Rodeos. One of his favorite subjects is Physical Education.

Debbie Dixon, IRCA secretary, said she is very proud and excited that such a young cowboy will be representing their association at the finals.

"As far as I know, Travis is the youngest bull-riding champion ever and one of the youngest competitors to qualify for the INFR," Dixon said. "He is going to have a very bright future and I just wish him all the best in Vegas, and with his future in this sport."

Skyler Bear Chief of Siksika also qualified for the INFR Finals by winning the bareback finals.

In total, 16 cowboy and cowgirls will represent the IRCA at the November 11-14, 2009, Indian National Finals Rodeo at the South Point Equestrian Centre in Las Vegas, Nevada.

2009 IRCA Champions and Indian National Finals Qualifiers:

Bareback Riding:

Year End: Cam Bruised Head (Blood Tribe)
Finals: Skylar Bear Chief (Siksika Nation)

Tie Down Roping:

Year End: Wright Bruised Head (Blood Tribe)
Finals: Jeff Fox (Blood Tribe)

Steer Wrestling:

Year End: Shane Day Chief (Blood Tribe)
Finals: David Shade (Blood Tribe)

Saddle Bronc Riding:

Year End: Trooper Whitney (Tsuu T'ina)
Finals: Byron Bruised Head (Blood Tribe)

Ladies Breakaway Roping:

Year End: Cammie Fox (Blood Tribe)
Finals: Skilee Dixon (Morley)

Team Roping:

Year End: Brian Labelle & Elliot Benjamin (Morley)
Finals: Lane Wolfe & Dion Yellow Bird (Hobbema)

Sr. Barrel Racing:

Year End: Traci Vaile (Montana)
Finals: Colleen Crawler (Morley)

Bull Riding:

Year End: Tuck Johnson (Montana)
Finals: Travis Maguire (Siksika Nation)



Maguire has a solid future ahead of him as he competes in one of the toughest sports possible--bull riding.

Story by Kelly Many Guns-Siksika Media

Saipoyi Students Honor Blood Tribe's Eldest Man



Fred Gladstone actively served on the Blood Tribe Council for many years.

The students of Saipoyi Elementary School in Standoff honored Fred Gladstone, the Tribe's eldest man, in a ceremony involving all the students and some members of his family on September 23, 2009. Fred was born in 1918 on the Blood reserve and is

the son of the late Senator James Gladstone and his wife, Janie Healy Gladstone. He attended St. Paul's Anglican Residential School, but left at age-sixteen to pursue other interests. He travelled the rodeo circuit throughout western Canada and northwestern USA, winning the Canadian calf-roping championship in 1948 and 1950. When not on the circuit, he farmed with his father near Cardston and took over the farm when his father was called to the Senate in 1958. In 1940, he married Edith Reid of Swift Current, and they had four children: June (Willms), Jim, Caen (Bly) and Jeffery. Active in native politics, he sat on the Blood Band Council from 1957-1964, and helped set up Kainai Cooperatives Enterprises on the reserve. He was a long-time supporter of the Indian Association of Alberta and was first elected to the IAA executive in 1969. He was also named to the Board of Directors of the National Indian Brotherhood (now the Assembly of First Nations), and has been involved in Indian matters on a

nation-wide basis. In 1961, he helped organize the Indian Rodeo Cowboys Association and was secretary until 1970. Gladstone was honored with an honor dance and song by elder Peter Weasel Moccasin and was given a Pendleton blanket during Saipoyi's mini powwow which concluded their Indian Summer Festival week.



Gladstone, recognized as the reserve's eldest man, is honored at Saipoyi's Indian Summer Festival week.

UNIVERSITY NASA STUDENTS HOST FORUM TO DISCUSS COMMENTS ON COLONIALISM

A group of University of Lethbridge students gathered to take part in a forum to discuss Prime Minister Stephen Harper's comment during the two-day Group of Twenty (G-20) Summit. "We [Canada] also have no history of colonialism," was Harper's now infamous comment that had offended First Nations' groups across the country.

The U of L Native American Students Association (NASA) and the Campus Women's Centre hosted the forum which was attended by about 30 students.

NASA representative Sea Marsland, a Northern Plains Cree from Lac La Ronge, Sask., insisted that Harper apologize for the statement. Marsland shared some of her own personal experiences and feelings that were conjured up in response to the "really insensitive and devastating comment."

Many of the people who spoke were 2nd or 3rd generation residential school survivors. Garret Smith, of both the Peigan and Blood reserves, shared his frustration with the attentive audience. He brought up the fact that this comment was made only a year after the Prime Minister had apologized for the atrocities that were endured as a result of

the residential schools in Canada. "Considering the recent apology, it is an outrage, a complete outrage for him to come out there and say that that there was no history of colonialism."

Assembly of First Nations National Chief, Shawn Atleo, responded to Harper's comments on the AFN website. "The Prime Minister must be held to the highest standard especially when speaking to the international community. There is no room for error. The current line of response from federal officials that the Prime Minister's remarks were taken 'out of context' is simply not good enough for someone in his position. The Prime Minister's statement speaks to the need for greater public education about First Nations and Canadian history. It may be possible to use this moment to begin bridging this gulf of misunderstanding. The future cannot be built without due regard to the past, without reconciling the incredible harm and injustice with a genuine commitment to move forward in truth and respect." A petition letter requesting an apology was made available to be signed after the forum and was sent to the Prime Minister.



A number of concerned U of L students voiced their opinions during a recent forum on campus.

Story by Sioux Crop Eared Wolf

LOCAL ATHLETES COMPETE FOR OPPORTUNITY TO REPRESENT ZONE IN THE PROVINCIAL MEET



Trey Twigg was one of 60 cross-country runners competing for an opportunity to compete in the Provincials in Wetaskiwin, AB.

The Kainai High School played host to the 2009 South Zone Cross-Country Meet at the north-end of the Blood reserve on October 7, with hundreds of athletes vying for a spot to represent their zone at the provincial meet in Wetaskiwin, AB., on October 17, 2009.

With a number of local athletes competing in the South Zone meet, only Trey Twigg, grade 11, competing in the Intermediate Boys category, qualified for the provincials. Charlton Weasel Head, Kainai High teacher and part-time athletic director, said the top 18 runners in each category will be heading to the provincials. "Trey Twigg finished in fourteenth spot and he will be among the top eighteen runners who will be moving on," he said. "Trey did really well and said he could have done better."

Twigg earned a spot to compete in the provincials in capturing an opportunity to represent his zone from a field of sixty runners. Weasel Head said the Kainai High School is proud of Twigg's accomplishment. "I know it's going to be pretty challenging for him, but it was one of his goals to make the provincials," he explained of Twigg's efforts as a competitor. "We are very satisfied having one of our students going to the provincials."

The cross-country course designed by meet organizers was situated in the Weasel Fat Flats and featured a challenging terrain for the athletes. Anyone interested in viewing the results can go to southzone.org and click on to the sports link.



The cross-country course situated at Weasel Fat Flats proved to be a worthy challenge for the runners who braved the cold temperatures and rough terrain during the recent south zone cross-country meet.

BLOOD TRIBE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT FEATURE: *HOUSING*



The Blood Tribe Housing department is one of 13 Blood Tribe Administration departments who are working for the best interests of the Tribe. With over twelve-hundred homes situated on a land-base of approximately 547.9 square miles, the Housing department is making every effort to accommodate the tribe's housing needs on a regular and consistent basis.

Under the guidance of Director Melvin Spear Chief, the Housing department is involved with a number of programs which focus on meeting the housing needs of our people. These programs include: New House construction, Renovation program—RRAP (Residential Rehabilitation Assistance program), Water & Sewer project, Infrastructure Grant project, Off-reserve Home Ownership program, CEAP (Canada's Economic Action Plan), Retro-fit initiative and Minor Renovation program. With many houses on the reserve in need of renovations, upgrades or repairs, the Housing department applied to funds flowing through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Indian & Northern Affairs Canada as part of the Canada Economic Action Plan to take advantage of a one-time federal investment over two years to address the needs of the existing on-reserve social housing needs. The grant dollars applied for will address the demands

for renovations and general repairs and improvements to existing houses.

A total of twenty new rental units are currently in the process of construction. The Stand Off Townsite will have nine new units with six units in Levern and five units in the community of Moses Lake. Construction on the 20 units began this September and applications for the twenty units are still being accepted at the Housing department. The twenty houses that are ready-to-move units were purchased from Triple M Housing in Lethbridge.

The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance program (RRAP), is where CMHC offers financial assistance to low-income homeowners for mandatory home repairs that will preserve the quality of affordable housing. The program helps people who live in houses which are in need of repair and for those who can not afford to pay for necessary repairs to their home. Homeowners may qualify for assistance if your property is eligible and if your total household income is at or below the Income Threshold set by CMHC. Your property may be eligible for Homeowner RRAP if your home is valued below a certain amount, at least twenty-five years old and substandard, and needs major repairs in one of the following areas: heating, structural, electrical, plumbing and fire safety. Your home may also qualify if work

is needed to help reduce overcrowding. The Housing department also oversees the Special Needs 14-unit apartment complex in Moses Lake and the Trailer Park in Stand Off.

With a staff of 18, the Housing department is making every effort to meet the Tribe's housing needs and acknowledge those families who contribute monthly rental payments for their homes.

For more information on any of the Housing programs or projects, please contact Housing at 403.737.3988.

**The Housing Mission Statement
is as follows:**

To administer housing programs and to provide our people with healthy affordable homes. We will achieve these goals by efficiently and effectively utilizing existing resources.

Story by Tom Russell

RED CROW COMMUNITY COLLEGE OFFER COURSE FOR TRADITIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY



Juanita Tallman, guide, is pictured here with elders Narcisse Blood, resource person, and Tom Little Bear, along with the students. The group spent the day at the Writing on Stone Provincial Park—Aisinai’pi Natural Historic Site, as part of their lessons on the history of the Blackfoot people.

Blood Tribe Employment & Skills Training Youth Work Experience Students enrolled in the Traditional Environment & Cultural Component course offered by the Red Crow Community College will share cultural, traditional and educational knowledge on forestry and the environment. The rationale for the course offered to its participants is to share the traditional and cultural knowledge in a holistic approach which examines the cultural ways, oral history and environments of the Blackfoot people in instilling a broader understanding and appreciation for the students as they prepare to further their education in off-reserve institutions. The culture course is a core component of the Youth Work Experience (YWE) program with recruitment beginning in September of each year. The YWE program is for those youth between the ages of 18-to-30 who are currently unemployed and not in school. Francis First Charger, CEO, Mikai’sto Foundation, says the course is currently the fifth time it is being offered and is working with the Blood Tribe Employment & Skills Training department (BTEST) in delivering the course. First Charger says they employ a variety of methods and use our most valuable resource in gaining a better understanding of our culture and history. “We use many of the elders on the reserve to share their knowledge,” he explains of some of the course instruction. “Each of the elders has their own special knowledge of certain aspects of our culture, and we try to gain as

much information from their experiences as possible.” For those enrolled in the course, one of the areas shared is the environment. As part of the course lessons, the environment is described as their surroundings, setting, situation, atmosphere, milieu, location background, up-bringing, natural world, ecosystems and the natural environment. Also, within the forestry aspect of the course, the students are presented with information on forestry use and much of the historical practices related to forestry. For instance, forestry use and access has been part of the Blackfoot culture for herbal and wood-gathering purposes. The forest provides a place where people could use it for shelter, supplies, heat, food and for medicinal plants used for healing and doctoring. Lorne West, Forestry Liaison Manager, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, says the course will provide valuable resources for the participants of the

traditional and environment program. “The First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) is pleased to have the opportunity to work with and assist Red Crow Community College for the past number of years in the development of this unique and beneficial (training) program which has assisted greatly in the transfer of important traditional knowledge to the younger generations of the Blood Tribe.” Wayna Beebe, Director, BTEST, says the courses offered are an excellent opportunity for the youth to become more in tune with their identity and history. “The program is one of the most valuable components of the Work Experience Program. We are preparing youth for their future careers and one way is to establish their identity as Kainai. By participating in this course, students see first-hand the legacy our ancestors provided and our ties to the environment around us. We have so much knowledge and this is one way of ensuring our youth are given that opportunity to learn what makes us unique.”



Story by Tom Russell

WORKSHOP HOSTED BY TREATY 7 COMMUNITY FUTURES FOCUSSES ON CULTURAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT



Dr. Martin Brokenleg

On September 18th, 2009, a small group of Blood Tribe Administration employees had the opportunity to attend a workshop in Calgary hosted by Treaty 7 Community Futures. The workshop entitled – ‘A Cultural Perspective on Training and Employment, Child Care and Youth at Risk,’ was dually presented by both Dr. Martin Brokenleg and Dr. Larry Brendtro.

The workshop focused on how to empower First Nations in their work environments and how to work together successfully in our communities. Dr. Martin Brokenleg and Dr. Larry Brendtro both specialize in working with youth at risk. Many of their teachings are illustrated by using examples from their youth work, which they would then apply to a work environment setting. It was interesting to see how these topics were able to go hand-in-hand.

Dr. Brokenleg was able to relay his message to the delegates through the ‘Circle of Courage.’ The Circle of Courage is sectioned into 4 quarters and each section represents a theme – Belonging, Independence, Generosity and Mastery. The workshop presentation explained each of these themes. The content provided was very informative and easy to understand. The way the information was delivered made the workshop easy to follow and was also very entertaining. Dr.

Martin Brokenleg also incorporated a lot of personal stories growing up on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation and how the lessons he learned helped him along in his life. He was very easy to relate to and has a great sense of humour. Dr. Larry Brendtro presented a lot of scientific research information that would apply directly to a concept that Indigenous peoples would already be practising. The research findings would reinforce how Indigenous peoples traditional ways of raising children and interacting with each other were actually more effective in raising healthy, respectful, well-balanced individuals.

The workshop was excellent and any person who has a chance in the future to attend a workshop presented by either Dr. Brokenleg or Dr. Brendtro should most definitely take up the opportunity.

Dr. Martin Brokenleg consults worldwide and serves as a Vice President of Reclaiming Youth International, providing training for individuals who work with youth at risk. He holds a doctorate in psychology and is a graduate of the Episcopal Divinity School. He is an Emeritus Professor and was most recently Director of Native Ministries and Professor of First Nations Theology and Ministry at the Vancouver School of Theology in Vancouver, British Columbia. For

thirty years, Dr. Brokenleg was professor of Native American studies at Augustana College of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He has also been a director of The Neighbourhood Youth Corps, chaplain in a correctional setting, and has extensive experience as an alcohol counsellor. Dr. Brokenleg has consulted and led training programs throughout North America, New Zealand and South Africa. He is the father of three children and an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe practicing the culture of his Lakota people.

Dr. Larry Brendtro is founder of the Circle of Courage Institute and former president of Starr Commonwealth serving troubled youth in Michigan and Ohio. He has broad experience as a youth worker, educator, administrator, researcher and author. He holds a Ph.D. in Education and Psychology from the University of Michigan, is a licensed psychologist and has taught in the area of behaviour disorders at the University of Illinois, the Ohio State University, and Augustana College. Dr. Brendtro is editor of the journal, Reclaiming Children and Youth, and with colleagues has authored twelve books and 200 articles on challenging youth. His most recent book is Deep Brain Learning: Pathways to Potential with Challenging Youth. He serves on the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, chaired by the U.S. Attorney General, and has trained youth professionals worldwide.



Dr. Larry Brendtro

Story by Sarah Sweet Grass



Regular Council Meeting October 5, 2009: Council Chambers.



- **Food Bank update.** Reported to Council that Food Bank is in dire need of repair. Many members who go to the Food Bank are affected. There is also a shortage of donations. Council suggestions to do a complete review and repair building. High priority.
- **Blood Tribe Department of Health, Walsh Wilkins Creighton.** Presentation to Council on concerns of Alberta Nurses' Union application and concerns over jurisdiction. Council direction provided and referred to legal to work with the Blood Tribe Department of Health.
- **Ag Sector.** Update from Walsh Wilkins Creighton. Present status of BTAP financing and administration. Council discussion and request for more information.
- **Finance Committee report from Chairman.** Finance Committee working on a deficit recovery on certain areas and sectors. The overall finances are good. Remedial plans are called for by Directors.
- **Recommendation** to extend services of auditors, Myers Norris Penney, for one year: 2010-2011. (Motion made and passed).
- **FNOGMMA:** some revisions being made to the governance and trust code. Date of the referendum is extended. More thorough consultation process is necessary.

- **Recommendation** to continue operation of the Oil and Gas Pilot Project formerly an IOGC project. (Motion made and passed).
- **Recommendation.** Interim Pension Committee to be established. Initiative has been ongoing. (Motion made, passed).
- **Update on First Nation Development Fund (FNDF).** Strategy and criteria for application were discussed. Recommendation on proposed criteria and deadline dates. (Motion made and passed.)
- **Council travel policy.** Reminder to Council on restrictions imposed by travel policy. Council travel bound by policy.
- **Economic Development update** by Corporate Development Manager on status of construction on the Altalink transmission line.
- **Blackfoot Confederacy.** Status report on Confederacy. Revisit the mandate of the Blackfoot Confederacy with membership to be strengthened through involvement from the four First Nations (Siksika, Kainai, Amskapi-piikani, Piikani).
- **Food Bank.** Manager of the Food Bank was called to do further report and to discuss details of the concerns regarding the building with options to rectify the situation. Council will further deal with this matter.

Regular Council meeting on October 6, 2009: Council Chambers.

- **Land Dispute Resolution Panel** has begun its work and provided its report and recommendation to Council on the first file they have dealt with. The Panel facilitates a dispute resolution process, in accordance with the Kainai Land Use and Occupation Dispute Resolution Policy and Procedures.
- **Blood Tribe Police Commission.** Review of policies governing Police Commission. Some concerns on conflict of interest. Discussion on concerns and options to work toward in resolving issues. New Council representatives on the Police Commission were appointed: Councillors Jim Gladstone and Ron Thunderchief were appointed by Council.
- **Food Security Report.** Update and information given by Arlene Moore. Reports indicate many Kainai families facing unstable food security, more nourishing food recommended.
- **BTEST report** on development of Construction Training Initiative program which is being sought after. Funding opportunities through AHRDA: a federally funded program through Treaty 7 Economic Development and Service Canada. The program could train individuals to do house construction and/or renovations. BTEST will be venue for training.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2009

Earl Healy Memorial Pow-Wow

November 21 & 22, 2009

South Pavilion
Lethbridge Exhibition Park

SATURDAY

10:00 am Exhibition Dance Registration
Guest Performances
1:00 pm Grand Entry
Intertribal Dancing
Feast
5:00 pm Hand Drums
Social Dancing
7:00 pm Grand Entry
Earl Healy Special
Exhibition Dancing
Retiring of the Flags
10:00 pm

SUNDAY

10:00 am Guest Performances
1:00 pm Grand Entry
Intertribal Dancing
Exhibition Dancing
Retiring of the Flags
6:00 pm Guest Performances
7:00 pm

Jason Good Striker, MC
Stan White Man, Arena Director

Host Hotels: Best Western Heidelberg Inn
Chinook Motel
Lethbridge Lodge
Quality Inn & Suites

All Dancers and Drums Welcome

Traditional Pow-Wow No Admission Fees
Special Invitation: Black Lodge, High Noon, Northern Cree, Old Agency Juniors, White Feathers, Blackfoot Confederacy
Vendors & Exhibitors Contact Mary Ann @ 403-327-8807



KAINAI WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY



Wednesday, November 11, 2009
Senator Gladstone Hall
Starting at 10:00 a.m. (Grand Entry)
2 minute silence observed at 11:00 a.m.

Laying of wreaths for WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm & Etc.

Luncheon to follow.

All Blood Tribe Members are welcome to join the families in honouring our War Veterans.

Protecting Our Future Generations



"The Tribe wants to obtain control over its Oil and Gas resources."

For More Information
Phone: 403-737-3950
Toll Free: 1-888-574-8683
www.kainaiolandgas.org



Kainai
First Project



KAINAI / BLOOD TRIBE

PUBLIC NOTICE TO BLOOD TRIBE MEMBERS

A Band meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2009 at 1 p.m. at the old Saipoyi School to present the Blood Tribe Audit and Budget. All Blood Tribe members are invited to attend the meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

The audit booklets will be made available at the Blood Tribe Administration reception desk.

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