

FREE

BLOOD TRIBE CHIEF AND COUNCIL REVIEW

TSINIKSSINI

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2010

ABFest 2010

**A Celebration of
Blackfoot Artists
and Performers**

ALSO...

Altalink Powerlines

Community Spruce Up

Lastar Radio

Suicide Runners

LC student wins Scholarship

OIL & GAS FAQ

BLOOD MEMBER PROFILE

NEW EAP COUNSELLOR

UPCOMING EVENTS



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**Published by Blood Tribe
Administration
COMMUNICATIONS Department**

The Blood Tribe Council Review entitled 'TSINIKSSINI' is dedicated to the sharing of information for the people of the Blood Tribe. The magazine format features 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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COVER: John Scout, front man for the Johnny Rains Band is part of a growing tradition of musicians and artists emerging from the Blood reserve. The Abfest festivities recognize the artistic talents from a number of genres each year during its annual celebrations.

COVER PHOTO BY BLAIRE RUSSELL PHOTOGRAPHY

ALTALINK BEGINS WORK ON PROJECT TO PREPARE FOR FLOW OF ELECTRICITY



The Altalink towers at the north end of the reserve have been strung with high-tension wire and are nearing the time when electricity will flow.

If you are wondering why you have seen helicopters flying about at the north end of the reserve, it is because the company involved in the Altalink project is busy stringing the 240 kV high voltage line in preparation for its eventual energy flow operation. AltaLink's Southwest 240 kV project is the first step in providing Albertans access to a clean, renewable source of electricity. The transmission line connecting Pincher Creek and Lethbridge will allow for 1,000 megawatts of new wind-generated electricity to reach homes and businesses throughout the province.

While connecting this renewable resource to the grid is important, AltaLink is committed to ensuring its construction activities do not affect the surrounding environment. As part of this commitment, construction activities in sensitive bird nesting areas were suspended starting Saturday, May 15, 2010.

Mike Oka, Blood Tribe Altalink liaison, said the stringing of the transmission line requires the use of helicopters as a means of speeding up the job, and also to protect the environment. "The reason for use of the helicopters was to expedite matters," he said.

"If they strung the line the conventional way, then they will travel the right of way a lot more with vehicles, they would wear down the right of way. Doing it this way, with helicopters, prevents further damage of the environmental impact of the native grassland. Also, reclamation of the native grassland will be performed once the Altalink line has been energized and employment opportunities will again be available for any one interested."

The helicopter makes a total of eight runs as it passes each tower and drops the line over a trap door and onto a traveler on the tower. Oka said once the line is in place on each tower, the line then needs to be tightened according to the standards required. "The tensioning part is the slowest process. It travels about two miles an hour," he explained. "They are doing roughly 20 towers a day."

With 75 towers ready to transmit electricity once the lines are connected, Oka said the power is expected to surge through the lines in late October. "We're looking at October 29th as the tentative date to energize the line," he said. "The stringing should be complete on October 19th and we have to keep in mind that this is a very aggressive schedule. With the rainfall we've had, we're still on schedule."

Oka said the construction of the Altalink link line has provided employment opportunities for many tribal members. "At any given time during the construction phase, we have had approximately fifty people from the tribe who have found employment on this project," he said. "Currently, we have three people still employed during this phase. We have used the Blood Tribe Truckers Association as well."

With the Altalink construction phase nearing completion, the capacity to move huge volumes of electricity come at a time when the Blood Tribe is looking to the future at wind generated energy alternatives. The construction of the power grid allows for the tribe to look at other sources of energy in keeping with a global demand to produce greater amounts of electricity. The construction of the line will give the tribe an opportunity to purchase 51 per cent of the line which would contribute to further revenues and other options.

by Tom Russell

BLOOD TRIBE ADMINISTRATION ESTABLISHES ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Naomi Blake, EAP counselor, is preparing for duties.

The Blood Tribe Administration has an employee assistance program counselor who is preparing for her role in meeting the needs of the approximately 450 tribal employees. Naomi Blake, who was employed on September 8, 2010, is looking forward to working for the Blood Tribe in assisting employees deal with personal matters.

"I'm really excited to be employed here," she said. "And I'm looking forward to meeting everyone."

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is offered by many employers, in this instance, the Blood Tribe Administration, and is intended to help employees deal with personal

problems that may affect their employment performance, health or personal well-being. The EAP counselor provides assessment, support and possible referrals to additional resources if required.

Blake, who has an extensive background in the mental health profession, is busy preparing for her role and will be situated in the tribe's satellite office in Lethbridge. She graduated from the Lethbridge College in 2006 with a Human Services diploma and graduated from the University of Lethbridge with an Addictions Counselling degree. She said employees who require the services of an EAP counselor can meet with her volun-

tarily or through referrals.

"There are several ways an individual can meet with me," she said. "You can refer yourself and ask to meet with me. A family member or your employer can refer you. Once the referral is made, we will do an intake and an assessment. Everything is confidential."

Employees who want to utilize the EAP should understand that confidentiality is strongly adhered to and it is in their best interests to deal with personal issues affecting them at their place of employment or outside the workplace. Katie Rabbit-Young Pine, director, Human Resources, supported the notion of introducing an avenue for employees to turn to if they required additional support. "The Employee Assistance Program is all about assisting BTA employees through troubled times stemming from personal issues. If these 'personal issues' begin to affect performance of the job, then it is important as the employer to do our part to help the employee," she said. "We can only do that if the employee requests the assistance. The Employee Assistance Program also provides an opportunity for growth. Facing our issues and dealing with them will certainly promote more positive energy in the workplace. Continuation of the program will be based on demand."

There are a number of reasons an employee may want to meet with an EAP counselor which may include work relationship issues, family or personal relations, health care concerns, legal or financial concerns, emotional distress, substance abuse matters and other personal issues affecting an individual.

Blake, who is currently preparing to meet employees, will be situated at the tribe's satellite office on the fourth floor at the Chancery Court Building in Lethbridge. She is tentatively looking at the first week of November to begin meeting with employees. "I will do a presentation on the last Friday in October to make everyone aware that the program exists and what's involved, and I hope to have it up and running on November 1st," she said. "We want employees to begin fulfilling their goals that they put forth for themselves."

The contact numbers for the Employee Assistance Program will be posted in the next issue of TSINIKSSINI.

by Tom Russell

COMMUNITY SPRUCE UP PROJECT HELPING TO BEAUTIFY STAND OFF

--Spruce Up project to begin in Stand Off, and then move out to other communities--



Once the rails are cut, the trees are then trimmed of any branches.

An undertaking to improve on the image of the Stand Off townsite is currently taking shape with local tribal members cutting rails in the mountains to be used to build fences for interested homeowners. The Community Spruce Up project, headed by Charlie Fox and the Community Development program, is intended to supply the materials for homeowners in the townsite to enhance their houses.

"We have a crew of 17 people from the reserve who are cutting rails near Castle Falls," said Charlie Fox Community Development coordinator. "These rails will then be used for interested community members from the townsite to begin building fences around their houses."

The rail-cutting crew is living in a temporary camp and will be there for approximately two weeks in trying to meet a quota to begin the spruce up project. "The intent is to cut the rails and use them for the communities. We're working with Stand Off now, to give it a spruce up. That's what we're calling the project," he said. "We're supplying the fencing material for the community. It's not like a free-for-all. They can't just come and load them up. We're expecting commitments from the people that we will help for them to fix up their own places."

In order for the Community Development

staff to better understand the needs of the community, they distributed a survey to the townsite residents as a way of helping to define the intent of the project. "We have four people doing a survey now in Stand Off," said Fox. "That survey pretty much asks them what they're going to contribute to the community. That questionnaire will help us to determine who wants to do what with their place. So, we'll have a pretty good idea what they want."

Fox said success of the project has to come from the community members themselves. "The community members have to step forward to say 'this is what I want to,'" he described. "Instead of us telling them what they should do, it would be better for the people to offer their suggestions, so that we're all clear on what it is we need to do together."

With the large number of homeowners in the townsite anticipating the opportunity available for them, Fox is hopeful some of the tribal departments and entities can contribute what they can toward the project. "We should know by the end of September what department is going to contribute what they can," he said. "We need soil, post holes need to be dug, cleaning up the community, things like that. The weather didn't help this year, but we're looking ahead at beginning this project in the community as soon as we can."

The Community Spruce Up project was designed to motivate family members to learn how to take care of their homes including maintenance of their yards. Building a yard fence with the help from family and friends is an excellent opportunity to work together on improving the appearance of the townsite, and to make the people feel good in contributing to a wholesome and healthy environment. "This spruce up project will not only help beautify the community, but should help in making the people feel better about where they live," he said. "We had a community meeting and it was very well attended. They all had very good things to say. We're beginning with the Stand Off townsite, and then we will be moving into the other communities. The people of the communities are the key players in this project. They have to build upon this opportunity to contribute toward making our communities healthy and happy."



The workers, many from Moses Lake, cut rails despite the wet weather conditions.



Charlie Fox, Community Development coordinator, stands beside two members of the Spruce Up project.

by Tom Russell

LASTAR RADIO PREPARE FOR EXPANSION IN INCREASING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



Tony Many Fingers, owner and operator of Lastar radio.

Sharing news and music on the airwaves has been part of the programming for the Blood Tribe's Lastar Radio network for the past 14 years. Owner-operator Tony Many Fingers, who is currently looking at expanding the wattage required to reach more households, says radio is a way to make contact with more people almost instantly, especially if news or information has to reach the public on an immediate or emergency basis.

"Lastar radio is an excellent medium for people to get any news or information out quickly, especially during any emergency situations," he said. "We have all the emergency numbers on hand and can inform people of what's going on at any given time."

Many Fingers began operations in 1996 pumping out the volume on a 10 watt system, and then up-graded to 150 watts transmitter as a way of extending his reach into more households. With the additional power source, it still was not enough to reach areas further away from his radio station. "My radio signal doesn't quite reach the north end of the reserve because of the size and topography," he explained. "FM radio signals only travel on the line of sight, they don't bounce off from the atmosphere like AM radio signals do, so we need a lot more power for our signal."

Because of the number of disasters the tribe experienced, especially last winter's

storms and the flooding in June, Many Fingers brought his concerns to leadership to share his concerns of increasing to a larger transmitter. "We met with Chief & Council and they realized the urgency of having an emergency broadcasting system in place," he said. "We've been doing our research and looking at different transmitters and are thinking about going to anywhere from a three- to five-thousand watt system. We'll then have the ability to share our signal on a much larger scale."

On a typical day, and in keeping with tradition, Many Fingers opens the broadcasting day with a prayer sent on the airwaves from a student from one of the three schools on the reserve. A light country and powwow music format is then broadcast until noon and then the news, sports and weather are shared with the listeners. The music then takes a slightly heavier tone in the afternoon and evenings to appeal to a younger audience. The radio format is flexible and a listener on any given day can hear rock, hip hop, gospel and traditional and contemporary powwow songs, among other forms of entertainment. The station also has a gospel hour and is a popular mode of sharing information especially during the elections.

The radio station also works closely with the Blood Tribe Administration and entities on

"Our mandate is to inform, entertain and enhance the Blackfoot speaking community and I would like more input from the people." - Tony Many Fingers.

the reserve, including the Blood Tribe Department of Health, who share important health postings with the people. Also, the Public Works department airs weekly sanitization truck schedules to inform the people, especially during blizzards, of where the graders are. The Economic Development also airs crucial deadline dates for small business grants and classes available to the people. Future plans include broadcasting the Blackfoot language from the Red Crow College's digital library.

Once the Lastar radio receives the additional wattage, Many Fingers said the dial numbers, 89.9, may change to a higher dial on the tuner to reflect a move into a larger area of coverage. "I'm going to have to upgrade my license and we may get a different sta-



tion number, but it's not up to me," he said. "I will be dealing with Industry Canada and they will probably assign me with a different number. On the plus side, the further I move up on the FM dial in the frequency, the further my signal will transmit."

Many Fingers is preparing for the additional reach across the Blood reserve and welcomes everyone to tune in anytime. "We are community-based and we are here to serve the community," he said. "Our mandate is to inform, entertain and enhance the Blackfoot speaking community and I would like more input from the people. If there's anything the people need whether it's a bingo, a dance or any kind of urgency, feel free to call me. I hope people take advantage of our service."



DJ/Producer Shawn Old Shoes is busy sharing his expertise and talent with Lastar radio.

by Tom Russell

LOOKING BACK - 1970

DEVINE AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP IN MACLEOD

--FIRST NATIVE TO RECEIVE SUCH AN HONOUR--



Levina Devine continues to set an example of good nature and friendliness to all she meets.

It was forty years ago—the Vietnam War ended, Elvis met Richard Nixon at the White House, the OPEC oil crisis was creating worldwide turmoil, Canada announces plans to convert to the metric system, the Blood Tribe Administration opened its doors in Cardston, and on a much local level, Levina Devine (nee Eagle Speaker) was presented with a scholarship at the F.P. Walshe school in Fort Macleod—the first time ever for a Native student in the Willow Creek school division.

Eagle Speaker, who was awarded the scholarship on September 24, 1970, stood at the podium to receive recognition for her hard work and commitment to her studies.

“I was advised I was going to graduate and I really studied hard that year,” she recalled upon receiving the good news. “I was later notified that I would be received an award too. That was a very proud moment for me.” Devine went to her graduation with her late mother Maggie Eagle Speaker and was presented with a \$200 scholarship for her efforts.

She recalled those early times, growing up in the lower Stand Off community when neighbors were neighbors and the people who lived in the area were close-knit. “I can still remember all the families who lived in the immediate area of lower Stand Off,” she recollected, being among family and friends.

“We had a real close family bond with all our neighbors. We were always visiting, drinking tea, eating bannock. I have fond memories of those times.”

Devine said the lower Stand Off community were always involved with activities where all the people gathered to have fun and visit. “We used to have a sports day,” she remembered. “I was more of a long-distance runner in those days. We had a lot of fun. We even had handgames, card games, bingos, movies for the children, and the Big Throat family had horse races every Sunday. There were a lot of things happening there at that time. Those are some of the memories I hold very dear.”

“I would advise the young people to stay focused, to stay balanced, and to work in harmony with our elders.” - Levina Devine.

Devine said two major floods caused many of the people to relocate to where the present-day townsite is situated.

After graduating, Levina married the late Michael Devine Jr., and together they raised four children. She then went back to school in 1976 and graduated from the Henderson Business College with a certificate in the Cleri-type Receptionist program. She also attained a diploma in Business Administration from Mount Royal College in 1995.

Among the many accomplishments Levina achieved was representing the Blood Tribe as a councilor in 1980.

During those years, students from the Blood and Peigan reserves were being accepted into the provincial school systems. Devine said she experienced difficult moments in school as she was among only a few people who left the reserve to further her education. “At that time I don’t think there were very many Native students attending off-reserve schools,” she said. “I had to deal with a lot of discrimination, but, I took it because my focus was to attain my education, regardless of the circumstances I was in. But, at the same time, I made a lot of friends who still call me to see how I’m doing.”

Devine encouraged the young people pursuing an education to challenge themselves to do their best. “I would advise the young people to stay focused, to stay balanced, and to work in harmony with our elders,” she said. “Today, we are very much involved with technology, but we still have to maintain our culture and language. Remember who you are and always be proud of who you are.” Presently, Devine is the main receptionist at the Blood Tribe Administration. She continues to practice those traits of warmth and sincerity she learned as a child and shares them with the people she meets every day.

by Tom Russell

RUNNERS LEND SUPPORT TO CREATE AWARENESS ON WELLNESS EFFORT TO HELP PREVENT SUICIDE

A group of students and concerned tribal members ran from the Glenwood junction to Stand Off to raise awareness on an act of self-inflicted violence—suicide. The Kainai Wellness Centre, who hosted the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Awareness Week, decided to bring their care and concerns out into the open by having a number of runners wearing bright yellow tee shirts run from the Out West Gas Station to the old Saipoyi gymnasium. Tobi Heavy Runner, Kainai Wellness Centre mental health, suicide prevention coordinator, was one of the organizers of the event who has been involved with the event for the past three years.

“It’s a national event to honor and remember people who were lost to suicide, or who are struggling with suicide,” she said. “It’s to make our community aware of the big impact suicide and that it is 100 per cent preventable.”

“We’re having difficulty finding people who can share their stories or experiences or who are ready to help,” she said. “It helps to hear from people who can help others.” Tobi Heavy Runner.

The Yellow Ribbon Suicide Awareness Week (YRSAW) began with a healing walk in Stand Off accompanied with a drum group and concerned community members. Each of the participants carried bright yellow balloons to represent hope and a brighter path for everyone. The participants were then treated to a meal and stood in silence for two minutes for lost loved ones. The following day, a large number of people in the Levern community, many of whom carried photos and pictures of people they lost in their families, supported the YRSAW efforts.

The planned event in Moses Lake was postponed due to the weather and the following day, 22 runners carried the message of hope and awareness on a 12-kilometre run from the Out West Gas station to Stand Off. The people were then treated to a barbeque and a ball tournament.

The theme for this year’s YRSAW was to promote life in the community. “We find that when we do workshops, we don’t get good attendance. But, when we do positive activities like youth ball tournaments, we try to provide suicide prevention information,”

she explained. “But, we also incorporate fun, because that’s what life is all about, doing positive activities in our communities.”

Heavy Runner acknowledged Brighter Futures Treaty Seven for their support, and to all the participants, especially the elders including Lucy Black Plume and Winston Wadsworth Sr. who prayed for the people.

The suicide prevention program is involved in many avenues designed to help prevent suicide including self harm training, gate keeper train the trainer courses for youth and adults, and other vital workshops. Heavy Runner has plans to begin volleyball and basketball leagues to motivate the youth to spend their energy on positive functions.

Anyone interested in volunteering their time and expertise can be a part of the suicide prevention group to help others who may feel alone or feel they have no where or no one to turn to. “We’re having difficulty finding people who can share their stories or experiences or who are ready to help,” she said. “It helps to hear from people who can help others.”

For more information on the suicide prevention program, or for any additional supports or training opportunities, you can contact Tobi Heavy Runner at the Kainai Wellness Centre at 403.737.8338.



There were runners of all ages who supported the run for suicide awareness. Many of the runners braved heavy traffic and cool temperatures to bring awareness to the prevention of suicide. The organizers of the week long activity wanted to thank everyone for their involvement and support.



Runners from Kainai donated their time and endurance to support the cause of suicide awareness and prevention on the Blood reserve.



by Tom Russell

ABORIGINAL DIABETES CONTINUES TO INCREASE

From a disease that was virtually unknown among First Nations, Inuit and Métis people fifty years ago, the prevalence of diabetes among First Nations is now at least three times the national average, with high rates occurring in all age groups. Diabetes in First Nations communities is now considered an epidemic, and rates are continuing to increase. Rates of diabetes appear to be higher on-reserve than off-reserve. Aboriginal people have a higher chance of developing type 2 diabetes, three-to-four times more likely than non-Aboriginal Canadians. This has many healthcare providers concerned.

Recent research done on Aboriginal diabetes indicates there may be a genetic link in this disease. In the past, the traditional lifestyle of most Native people required a lot of physical activity. They evolved a gene that enabled them to convert food to stored fat very quickly, and vice versa. It may be this gene that is impacting Aboriginal diabetes. In today's scenario, many aboriginal lifestyles do not require as much physical activity, so obesity occurs. Physical activity is a key factor in the prevention of diabetes.

Diabetes is a lifelong condition where your body does not produce enough insulin, or your body cannot properly use the insulin it produces. Your body needs insulin to change the sugar from food into energy. With diabetes, the sugar stays in your blood so that your blood sugar level gets too high. High blood sugar levels over long periods of time can cause complications such as damage to blood vessels and kidneys and difficulties with circulation. Healthy eating is important for overall health and well being.

In the past, older people used to get diabetes more often, but now, it is occurring in younger Aboriginals, because their traditional lifestyle has changed so fast.

Diabetes is a key public health concern for Aboriginal people. Although much less is known about diabetes among Métis people, results from the Aboriginal Peoples Survey show rates well above the non-Aboriginal average. In the past, Inuit people have been the only exception to this pattern of high rates. However, more recent regional data indicate that this too is changing. Data available for some First Nations indicate a high prevalence of complications such as heart disease, hypertension, stroke, lower limb amputations, kidney disease and eye disease. There is particular concern regarding two groups within the First Nations population:

children and women of childbearing age.

The Annual Diabetes Walk on the Blood reserve took place on May 15, 2010, in the community of Moses Lake. The annual walk was hosted by the Blood Tribe Department of Health whose organizers were pleased with the turnout at the event. The purpose of the Walk is to create an awareness of Diabetes in our community and how to prevent the possible onset of the disease. It is also a way to create an awareness of the services that are available to the members of the community.



Events Such as the annual Diabetes Walk each year help to bring focus to a disease which is rampant on many First Nations. The First Nation's people represent a growing number of people who are afflicted with this disease.



The Diabetes Walk was followed by a workshop designed to create awareness on healthy lifestyles and proper eating habits.



Youngsters from the area enjoyed a healthy vegetable stew which was served at the workshop.



Don Cotton, shown here in the T-shirt given to the participants, played a major role in the 2010 Annual Diabetes Walk.



Partners from Siksika were also on hand.

by Rick Tailfeathers

Aboriginal Arts Community Shines at ABFest



Charlene Hellson entertained the crowd with her brand of native humor.

It was a time for Aboriginal artists to stand up and receive acknowledgment for their contributions to the arts community in Southern Alberta, at ABFest 2010, in Lethbridge on September 16-18. Hosted by the Blackfoot Canadian Cultural Society, it was part of the week-long Alberta Art Days, a province-wide event. This was the third annual ABFest, and by all accounts, it has taken off very successfully. Marianne Crow-Healy, one of the organizers commented: "It has gone beyond our wildest expectations, but it has been the support of many in the arts community that has made ABFest so successful." And there is no doubt about its success as Crow-Healy continued: "All the event venues were sold out for ABFest activities."

These included the unveiling of the 'Contemporary Winter Count Exhibit' by artist Kerry Scott at the Blackfoot Art Gallery, the concert by Aboriginal country singer, Shane Yellowbird at the Yates Theatre and the Gala event at the Lethbridge Coast Hotel. Art awards were presented to Aboriginal artists recognizing their contributions to the art community. The awards are given to two artists from each of the four Blackfoot Confederacy Nations based on recognition of their achievements in the arts.

Special guest, Jack Gladstone, who was a recipient last year, entertained the participants with aboriginal style folk/country songs. He spoke of some of the lessons to be learned from our ancestors. The gala event concluded with the music of the Johnny Rain Band. The Contemporary Winter Count exhibit continues in the Blackfoot Gallery situated at the Lethbridge Centre. Lethbridge has been named a flagship city in Alberta for this year's Arts Day celebrations across the province



The Blackfoot Art Gallery is located in the Lethbridge Center Mall in Downtown Lethbridge, AB.

Awards were given to:

North (Siksika)

*Charlene Hellson, Literary Arts
Harlon McMaster, Visual Arts*

East (Kainai)

*Gordon Fox, Literary Arts
Kinroq, Performing Arts*

West (Pikanni)

*Ira Provost, Performing Arts
Kerry Scott, Visual Arts*

South (Blackfeet)

*Gordo Horn, Performing Arts
Valentina LaPier, Visual Arts*



photo by Blaire Russell

Yellowbird and company performing acoustic songs at the Yates.



Clockwise from left: Jack Gladstone, Kinroq, Mary Ann Crow-Healy, Ira Provost, The 2010 Blackfoot Awards recipients, Donald Morin and Debbie Kelman act out a scene from Gordon Fox's "Arvus in Excelsusz", Johnny Rains Band.



by Rick Tailfeathers

LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE STUDENT WINS \$2000 EQUITY SCHOLARSHIP



Joey Sugai (right) receives his scholarship award from Rod Schween, GM of the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group's Lethbridge operations.

A student currently attending Lethbridge College is the recipient of the 2010 Alberta Equity Scholarship, an initiative of the Alberta stations of the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group. Joey Sugai is from Raymond Alberta, and is a member of the Blood reserve, which is part of the Blackfoot Confederacy.

"I was ecstatic with emotion," he said upon receiving the scholarship. "All the recognition I have received is quite humbling to see that people are recognizing my hard work and achievements so far."

Sugai has already graduated with honours from the Print Journalism program, and is working towards additional diplomas in Advertising/ Public Relations and in Broadcast Journalism. His eventual goal is to work in Broadcasting.

The selection committee chose Sugai to receive the \$2000 scholarship based on the hard work, dedication and excellence he has demonstrated in pursuing his educational goals, his leadership role in the young Aboriginal community, and his determination to overcome the challenges that he has had to face.

The Alberta Equity Scholarship has been instituted to address the shortage of Alberta broadcasters from four under-represented groups; Aboriginal Peoples, Persons with Disabilities, Members of Visible Minorities, and Women. The Jim Pattison Broadcast Group believes that by supporting the career development of these groups in Alberta broadcasting, the industry will access an untapped pool of potentially talented employees, encourage diverse viewpoints and backgrounds, enhance relationships with local communities, and broaden the advertiser and audience base.

Joey Sugai has bucked the odds by becoming one of the small numbers of aboriginal students graduating from college. In doing so, he has maintained a high grade-point average, worked part-time, volunteered at a local media outlet, worked for the Lethbridge College student newspaper (and won a provincial award for a feature story), and has been accepted into the college's academic honour society, Phi Theta Kappa.

"I would like to acknowledge the staff of the Lethbridge College, D'Arcy Kavana-

ugh, and to the Jim Pattison Broadcasting Group," he said. "It's nice to see that they are trying to incorporate Aboriginals into the media stream."

The Jim Pattison Broadcast Group is proud to name Joey Sugai as the recipient of its 2010 Alberta Equity Scholarship, and wishes Joey great success in his broadcast career.

NOTE:

Joey Sugai was a summer student with the Lands department. He contributed a story to TSINIKSSINI describing the various activities the Lands department is involved with. Sugai also received a scholarship from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation which was part of the Shell Canada Scholarship Program.

The Blood Tribe congratulates Joey Sugai and wish him well in his studies.

by Tom Russell

LABOUR DAY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT ATTRACTS NUMBER OF TALENTED TEAMS



The Monstars from Siksika proved to be the cream of the crop as they claimed the Labor Day basketball tournament. The Kainai Redskins took second place.

Labour Day weekend is the last long weekend until Thanksgiving. Many people take advantage of this long weekend to go camping, travel, or relax at home. A men's basketball tournament was hosted this Labour Day weekend by Marty Heavy Shields to give people a healthy alternative to enjoy the weekend.

The tournament consisted of local teams from Kainai, Siksika and Peigan. Five local teams participated in the two-day tournament in which the Monstars from Siksika were awarded first place, and the Redskins from Kainai were awarded second place. Brendan Blood was named most valuable player of the tournament.

Marty Heavy Shields, a member of the Blood Tribe and a student at the University of Lethbridge, plans to go into Social Work to help our people with the issues we struggle with today.

"I am putting on a men's basket ball tournament on September 3rd & 4th at Kainai high school in Standoff and (am) going to call it: 'Blood Tribes Men's First Annual Labour Day Classic,'" he said.

"I want to put this tournament on to give the community a positive outlet of recreation, rather than using drugs and alcohol. I want this to be an event that the community feels that it belongs to them, which is why I am using the 'Blood Tribe' in the title."

Heavy Shields said the planned annual basketball tournament will give our people an

outlet to spending quality time with one another.

"I want to give the people the option of playing, watching, or just a positive atmosphere for people to hang out. Whether young or old, it provides the community to interact in a positive environment, as well as bring them closer together to cheer for their favourite team."

Heavy Shields added an activity such as a tournament gives the youth an opportunity to help make a positive impact in the community by giving them a positive and constructive option on the long Labour Day week-

end, which can help the prevention of drugs and alcohol use that are people are largely affected by. "Though it may not be the complete solution, but as a member of the community, it is a start," he said. "And it shows that anybody can make a difference in their own expression."

He hopes to continue to host this basketball tournament and perhaps host more tournaments to curb people away from using drugs or alcohol.

Marty Heavy Shields would like to thank the following departments for their support and donations towards the basketball tournament: Kainai Community Corrections Society, Social Development, Recreation, Blood Tribe Department of Health and Red Crow College. He would also like to acknowledge the players and fans who came out to the tournament.



The Labor Day tournament was well-attended and is scheduled to become an annual event. Marty Heavy Shields said the tournament is an outlet for the ball players to strut their stuff, and to also provide a positive outlet for the youth to interact on playing fields of friendship and goodwill.

by Sioux Crop Eared Wolf



Jennifer and Albert Rabbit stand in front of their business.

Operating a long-standing business is one way to measure success. For two Blood entrepreneurs, success comes in how you treat people on a daily basis. Jennifer and Albert Rabbit have been in operation since the mid nineties when Albert's Gas Bar opened its doors. Today, they have expanded from a two-room shack into a facility which emphasizes convenience.

"I can remember needing supplies and have had to run all the way to the surrounding communities to pick these up," says Jennifer. "Here, at Albert's, we offer those conveniences that help people save a costly trip off the reserve to purchase the things they need."

Besides offering gas and vehicle items, Albert's has a variety of snacks and food products including refreshments and hot coffee for weary travelers. Also, the opportunity to employ tribal members motivates them to help in reducing the unemployment rate on the reserve. "I guess the highlight of the business is that we have been able to create employment," says Jennifer. "That was something we were always proud of that we were able to hire locally. We are able to train people and are more than willing to give them good references when they decide to seek employment elsewhere."

Both business partners realize a huge key to success is how they deal with the people they serve. "We deal with many of the departments on the reserve," says Albert. "We are available to provide emergency services after regular business hours to, for instance, the police, medical services and other businesses. They just phone. We're always here to serve the community."

Currently, Albert's Gas Bar has a pawn shop

for people who need cash immediately and have plans to open a trailer park nearby where people of all ages can relax and enjoy themselves. "We want to open a trailer park here where travelers can stop to relax," says Albert. "We even want to include a petting zoo for the children. I think that would be nice for the children around here to have a place where they could go to enjoy animals in a safe environment."

As they were establishing their business, Jennifer recalls a time when the local businesses in Stand Off shared a bond which helped pull them through some of the time when they needed support. "We use to be able to offer support for each other a few years back," she remembers. "If we needed supplies from each other, we were able to help. Those were the times I remember of how we supported each other. It would be nice if all the businesses on the reserve could continue to oper-

ALBERT'S GAS BAR PLAYS ITS ROLE IN PROVIDING SERVICE TO PEOPLE

ate in that manner."

As the partners look ahead to future plans and growth, they still acknowledge the people who have supported them during the years and who have become close friends despite the boundaries that accompany any business. "We have policies that we must follow in order to succeed," explains Jennifer. "We live in a community with many relatives and friends, but people have to understand that we run a business. And in order for any business to survive, we need to follow rules that we have established to maintain that our business continues to operate in serving our community."

Both Jennifer and Albert offer their advice to entrepreneurs who may be thinking of beginning a small business. "Commitment is something very important," says Jennifer. "We've seen, over the years, that if you are not very committed, then the business goes under. So, commitment is very important for any business to succeed."

Albert's Gas Bar management thank all the people who have patronized their business and look forward to continuing their service for the many people and tourists who drop by for fuel and refreshments.



The management of Albert's Gas Bar employ and support people from the Blood reserve.

by Tom Russell

Kainaiwa Resources Inc. Frequently Asked Questions



As a result of some misinformation and questions in regards to the Tribe's recent Oil and Gas Announcements, KRI has developed some additional information to help the membership better understand the details of the proposed agreements.

1. *Did the Tribe receive the best deal possible?*

There are several factors that ensured the Tribe received the best deal possible. The Tribe through its oil and gas entity, Kainaiwa Resources Inc. (KRI), did not rush the negotiations or take the first offer. It took approximately 7 months to reach a final agreement. The first offer was \$5 million to lease the entire reserve, however we ended up at over \$50 million for a lease on approximately half the reserve. During these 7 months, an extensive due diligence was conducted which included an examination of all Alberta oil and gas land sales just off reserve to ensure that the up front bonus was comparable. Also we looked at other successful oil and gas First Nations to incorporate the concepts that made their oil and gas operations successful.

2. *Did the Tribe only base their decision on Kainaiwa Resources Inc. recommendation?*

Although KRI was the agency that spearheaded all the negotiations, the Tribe had several other sources that were utilized for their expertise in reaching these agreements. Mr. Brian Schmidt, who is a member of the Business Centre of Excellence in Calgary, and is formerly the President of Apache Exploration Ltd. and a board member of Indian Oil and Gas Canada, provided his expert opinion and advice throughout these negotiations. Ryder Scott Petroleum Consultants, who are a member of the "Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta," also evaluated the final proposal. Rae and Company was the Law Firm that provided the legal advice on this project. They have extensive legal experience in First Nation Oil and Gas legal issues. All these corporations provided their expert advice to Chief and Council and were all in favor of these agreements.

3. *How would the environment be protected?*

There are approximately 9 separate environmental regulations that would govern all oil and gas activity and are intended to protect the environment. Each and every proposed location must undergo an extensive environmental assessment, which includes archeological and Elder assessments, by a independent third party qualified environmental agency. This agency must be independent from the oil company, Indian Oil and Gas Canada and the Tribe. The Blood Tribe Lands department also provided this information. All parties must be completely satisfied before the oil company is allowed onto the land. Part of this process includes consultation with the occupants from the Tribe. The occupant has the opportunity to voice their concerns and request any additional precautions that they may think are necessary.

4. *Since these Companies are going to use horizontal drilling technology, will this drilling technology result in any adverse affects to the land?*

There are no increase environmental risks with horizontal drilling, including multi fracturing, compared to conventional vertical drilling. The same environmental regulations will apply to horizontal drilling as with conventional drilling. More than 3 million pounds of fully cemented steel casing strings are used to fully protect freshwater aquifers (ground water). The fracturing fluids consist of 99.86% water and sand, the rest consists of highly diluted common chemicals that are contained and safely managed. The fracturing process takes place more than one mile below the water aquifers.

5. *When will the Tribe have access to the bonus dollars?*

No dollars have been paid to date. The bonus dollars will be paid directly to Indian Oil and Gas Canada once all parties sign the lease document. The lease is currently being drafted by Indian Oil and Gas Canada and is not completed. The Blood Tribe doesn't have any control of the speed of the process. Originally, the Tribe anticipated the drafting stage would be complete and documents would have been signed by October 1, however the drafting stage is taking longer then we thought. Thus, we are hoping to have everything completed by mid to late October, 2010. After that time, the bonus dollars would be paid to Indian Oil and Gas Canada and would be available to the Tribe.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Kainaiwa Resources Inc. at 737-3950 or email us at kriblood@telusplanet.net

*Correction: The Blackfoot Confederacy Conference dates have been changed from Sept 14-17th to October 31-Nov 2
Also, the location has changed from Red Deer to Lethbridge.
Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.
Below is the updated notice...*

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BLOOD TRIBE

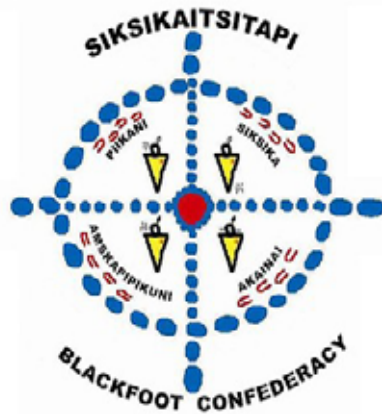
September 30th , 2010

The details regarding the Blood Tribe oil & gas lease agreement with Murphy Oil Company Ltd., and Bo-wood Energy Ltd., are still being finalized and revenues derived from this agreement are not available yet until the necessary administrative work has been completed. Due to the formal and legal processes involved, this could take a few weeks. Presently there are no dates set for a per capita distribution payment, and the amounts have not been set either. The Blood Tribe Chief and Council and Administration will notify the membership when any and all details are complete.

We ask you for your continued patience and understanding. We are working diligently to ensure the Blood Tribe can secure what is in the best interests for our people.

Thank you.

10th Annual Blackfoot Confederacy Conference



October 31, November 1 & 2, 2010

Blackfoot Territory

Lethbridge Lodge, 320 Scenic Drive | 1.800.661.1232 | Lethbridge, AB

“Omio pioo tsi’yop”

“Gathering Together”

Call 403.965.3940 for Pre-registration | Registration is Free

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