

Aitsiniki

Siksika Nation's Most Trusted News Source

Siksika Community Clean-up: Earth Day 2023



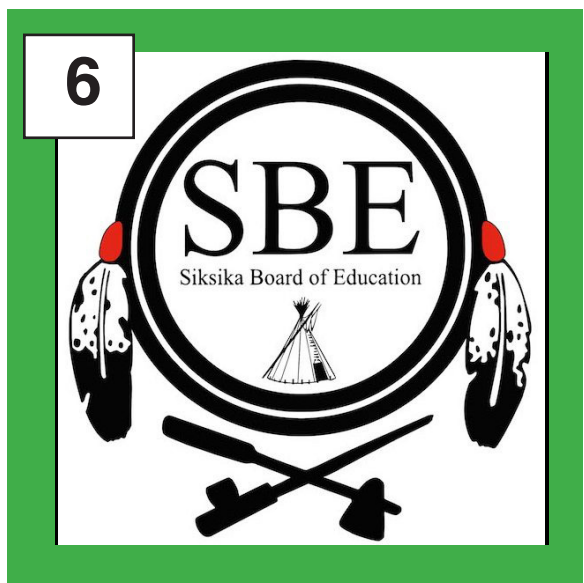
A pair of garbage bags sit on the Piiksapi Memorial Arbour grounds. Public Works hosted the annual community cleanup for Earth month. This month's front cover image is generated using 360 camera technology.
Photo: Floyd Black Horse



In People: Siksika Nation Coun. Lou Ann Solway receives certificate at 2023 Indigenous Business Builders Series.



Public Works recognizes staff completing Computer certificates with Merit.



Introduction letter from new Superintendent



CFXX 104.7 FM

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SIKSIKA MEDIA
AITSINIKI / CFXX 104.7 FM

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Siksika Media publishes on a
monthly basis to the Siksika
Nation.

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the Old Sun Community College

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subscription rates.

Easter Family Fun
By Siksika Media

Finishing off the week of no
school, kids and families made it
to the arbour for a festive lunch on
April 14.

Family Fun Day presented by the
Siksika Reunification program
gathered community members for
fun and food.

“We are more than pleased with
the turn out,” says Ezra McKay,
Reunification Team Lead.

Spring break on the nation for
the High school, Outreach, Chief
Crowfoot and Chief Old Sun began
April 7 with classes resuming April
17.

Krista Medicine Traveller, Reuni-
fication Support Worker, hopes to
see programs designed for infants
and pre-schoolers.

“It was good,” said Medicine Trav-
eller. “We had some of our clients
attend so I’m happy.”

Indigenous men from
all walks meet at
Healing Circle

By Siksika Media

Smudging and honour songs are
part of a Men’s Healing Circle
in the city and is welcoming all
nations to take part.

Every Wednesday in the
Forest Lawn-Forest Heights
neighbourhood, Awo Taan Healing
Lodge Society puts together a
group specific to men, Indigenous
and non-Indigenous.

Three Indigenous, male staff

members and an elder lead from
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, supplying the
drum and sharing and support.

Samantha Efthimiou, Operations
Manager, is Mi’kmaq from Eastern
Canada and started at the lodge
in 2010. Using pronouns, she/her,
Efthimiou manages two locations:
a 24-hour Emergency Women’s
Shelter and their family resource
centre in Forest Lawn.

“When healthy men facilitate
these circles, it’s powerful,” says
Efthimiou. “It gives them an
example and a traditional way
of healing and wellness through
mental health.”

There are also women’s and youth
healing circles they offer which
can be joined via online chat.

The program is open to a range
of backgrounds. They can be
experiencing any kind of struggles
and do not necessarily have to be
in recovery.

“We have some who are recovering
from addictions, incarceration,”
and some who are “businessmen
and husbands.”

They can be found at 4518 17th
Avenue S.E. Registration is needed
and you can phone them at (403)
531-1880 EXT. 100.



Siksika Nation Tribal Administration

1910 GLOBAL SETTLEMENT DISTRIBUTION

\$10,000.00 PER PERSON

DISTRIBUTION DATES:

June 26th, 2023
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Gordon Yellowfly (Piiksapi) Arbour
Siksika, Alberta

June 27th, 2023
9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Siksika Calgary Office - Sunpark Plaza
Calgary, Alberta

DIRECT DEPOSIT INTAKE WILL START APRIL 17TH, 2023

Everyone must pick up their own cheque

Court orders will be required for children in question

Half of minor children's funds will be put in the Ma'tapiiks Trust with Royal
Bank Canada (RBC)

Application forms will be available on the Siksika Nation website. Copies of
identification & banking information will be required. All information
collected will be kept strictly confidential and destroyed immediately
following the distribution date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE MEMBERSHIP
OFFICE: 403-734-5135 OR 1-877-734-5135
MEMBERSHIP@SIKSIKANATION.COM

West Clean-up: Volunteers



By Floyd Black Horse

Bottle caps, cola cans, face masks and loonies were picked up during community clean-up day on Siksika.

East and west locations from as far as Blackfoot Crossing to the Arbour were sites of garbage collection for Siksika Community Clean-up, hosted by Siksika Public Works (PW), April 13-14.

Earth Day was established on April 22, 1970, marking a global phenomenon when citizens around the world raised awareness about the effects of pollution on the planet.

Throughout the decades, a modern environment movement has been taking place encouraging Americans and countries around the world to take better care of the environment.

Earth month activities this year in

Siksika reached out to common areas, public venues, and volunteers from each department.

“The day is going good with a lot of cooperation from other departments and the community as well. Just like yesterday, we had fire [Siksika Nation Fire & Rescue] come out supporting us and providing the meal,” says Wendell Calf Robe, PW Solid Waste Foreman. “It’s just a great, coordinated effort.”

Clean-up on the nation’s west-side included a full fleet of solid waste pickup trucks, constituting six fleet vehicles and a Gator, a type of high-performance utility vehicle.

One of the newest additions to the PW fleet is a “\$300,000.00 Loader,” says Calf Robe, used in construction to move or load heavy materials such as soil, rock, and sand.

“The loader itself is for anything more than a truck box, that’s where we have the commercial fleet and the loader working together, delegated by the ground crews.”

One of the teams on site were staff members from Siksika Justice, putting on gloves and filling up garbage bags
(Story continues on Page 8)



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Welcome



Siksika Nation Administration
Office of Land Management

We at Lands Management are embarking on a journey and you are all invited.

Lands Management is undertaking development of a Land Use Plan. Siksika people have always been the original stewards of the land, traditionally it has been unwritten. But it has come to the point where we need to come up with a Land Use Plan to ensure we have land that is healthy, cared for, and able to provide for today and our future generations.

Here are some key points we would like you to consider.

Where We Started:

- On January 18, 2022, the Siksika Nation Chief and Council passed a BCR that gave direction and full support to Lands Management to undertake the process of creating a 20-year Land Use Plan.
- Funding for a three-year process was

obtained from National Aboriginal Land Manager Association NALMA a national organization that support first nation land management offices throughout Canada.

- The work is being carried out in three phases: (1) Assessing the Need & Capacity Development, (2) Development of a Land Use Plan, and (3) Implementation of Land Use Plan which requires periodic 5 – year review and update of the plan.

What Has Happened So Far:

- Phase 1 – Assessing the Need & Capacity Development has been completed. This included a review and summary of all related background information within Siksika administration department(s) and related entities as well as one-on - one interviews with these groups.
- Phase 2 – Completion of Land Use Plan is now underway which leads us to reaching out and asking for your help.
- An important component is community engagement and working with Elders on culturally related subject matter.
- We have completed on reserve school engagements at Siksika High School, COSS, Crowfoot School and Store front and the response has been great.

How do you see the land being used? To give your input please come to the community consultations and tell us how you see Siksika land being used.

- LMSA is asking for your help by attending engagement events coming up to help inform and guide what this plan will look like. The tentative timeline is May through July 2023. We will be having these engagements in various communities. Engagement schedules will be provided soon.
- We are looking to enlist your help to obtain the knowledge that all people hold, we are looking for all feedback and will not discourage any.

Land Use Inventory:

- As part of this community conversation on land, Siksika Land Management will also be conducting a Land Use Inventory of all agricultural activities and operations, along with small businesses throughout Siksika Nation.
- As it stands now, Siksika lands encompass approximately 210,080 acres of land. Some of the more primary uses of land are community pastures and cultivated agriculture land. Across the reserve there are thirty community pastures, which make up about 74,122 acres, this does not account for private pastures.
- As for cultivated agricultural land, this is at roughly 47,760 acres. Most of these cultivated agricultural lands are situated in the west end, and southern portions of the reserve. To some this may sound like a lot but considering population it is not that much – this is a fixed land base,

and we are now at more than double the population used to calculate the size at creation of the reserve.

- The Land Use Inventory engagement process will be valuable information as Siksika Nation plans as our population grows and the need for more community developments and infrastructure is needed to accommodate our people. It is important that we get an accurate representation of these agricultural activities and operations updated as we move towards a more sustainable future for how Siksika Lands are utilized.
- This engagement will consist of Siksika Land Management conducting interviews and surveys with local nation members to gather relevant information regarding livestock, farming operations, and any other relevant information in relation to agricultural activities and operations on Siksika lands. Tentative dates for this have been determined to be from May to July of 2023.

We hope to see you all soon at community engagements or during the inventory engagements! For more information, please come by the LMSA office.

“Blackfoot people, our land, our good intentions”
“Siksikawa, kitaw’hsinnoon, Kitsokitsihtanninoon”



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Siksika People, Places and Faces



Flag carriers lead grand entry as dancers from all categories join the floor.



Vincent Yellow Old Woman, Siksika Elder, stands from his seat for a photo.



Ashley Wright, Medicine-Pipe Woman Designs.



Lou Ann Solway, 70 Quarter Circle Solway Ranch.



Grass dancer Tyrone Sitting Eagle in red and yellow beaded outfit.



Powwow spectators on Saturday night during dance contests.



Trevor Smith, JML Operations Ltd.



Chantell Wright, Wright Glam.

Lead By Example Powwow 2023 (Above pictures), co-hosted by the town of Strathmore at the Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre on Mar. 18-19.

Photo: Floyd Black Horse

2023 Indigenous Business Builders series (Above pictures) at Best Western Premiere Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre. Among the recipients were members from Siksika Nation who received certificates.

Photo: Floyd Black Horse

HAPPY
Easter



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It's tax season
Siksika!



The Talking Taxes Program
is here to help...FOR FREE!

We have a few questions:

☒ Do you consider yourself low income?

☒ Are you aware of the financial benefits of getting your taxes done?

☒ Have you wanted to file your taxes, but are doubtful about calling or sharing your information with Canada Revenue Agency?

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Filing your taxes gives you access to these benefits:

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Canada Child Benefit (CCB)

Child Disability Benefit

Disability Tax Credit

Canada Workers Benefit

Canada Training Credit

Climate Action Incentive

For more information on the Talking Taxes Program contact:

Leonda Solway, Talking Taxes Coordinator

leonda.solway@risecalgary.ca | 587.892.9999

Office located in Siksika Employment and Training Services

Rise Calgary

momentum

Alberta Government

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Siksika Board of Education: Superintendent's Introduction

Dear Parents/Guardians and Families,

Oki! (Hello!) My name is Chris Scout, and I'm excited and humbled to have been appointed as Superintendent of the Siksika Board of Education. I'm looking forward to meeting and working with you as we grow and learn together. I want to share a bit about myself to help you to get to know me better.

My Blackfoot name is Isstoi'soowa (Winter Count Coup). It was given to me by the late Andy Blackwater, in a ceremony at the University of Lethbridge while completing my master's degree. I'm Niitsitapi from the Kainai Nation in Southern Alberta, but I was born on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nation (Vancouver). I'm a member of the Mamioyiiksi (Fish Eater clan). I was the fourth child of Sooyi'kitstaki (the name of my mother), of the Niitsitapi and I grew up in the areas south of Moh-kins-tsis, in places like Akokimi (Blackfoot name for Cardston), Akapiyoyis (Blackfoot name for Fort Macleod) and Kainai. I began teaching in 2006 at the Siksika Nation High School. In 2010 I began working with the Calgary Board of Education (CBE). I have held several roles in the CBE, including teacher, Learning Leader, Specialist, Assistant Principal, and System Assistant Principal. I'm also currently the vice-chair for Old Sun Community

College Board of Governors, and in the second year of my Doctor of Education at the University of Calgary. I have a 10-year-old Silky Terrier who adopted me when he was two, and we live in the northwest Calgary community of Nolan Hill.

I believe strongly in Education. The work of teachers, support staff, administration, and system personnel makes a huge difference in the lives of the communities they serve. Thomas King, in his book The Truth About Stories writes, "The truth about stories is that that's all we are." I'm excited to be a part of the story of the Siksika Board of Education and work with staff, students, parents and families to tell the best story we can.

Under the confident leadership of our school board, and Siksika Leadership, we will continue to provide a learning community that we can all be proud of. We will rely on parents and families to help guide this work. Your voices and teachers' voices will be used to make the best decisions for students and their learning.

I look forward to meeting your children, working, and learning with them. See you in April!

Sincerely,
Chris Scout –
Superintendent, Siksika Board of Education

Public Works would like to recognize staff for completing their "Computer Fundamentals & Professional Skills for the Workplace."

Lyle Breaker – with Merit | Kansas Royal– with Merit | Wendell Calf Robe – with Merit | Tasheena Wright – with Merit | Bobby McMaster





Indigenous Bachelor of Social Work (IBSW) Degree Program

Old Sun Community College is pleased to announce the delivery of its first ever 4-year degree program. The IBSW program is founded upon Siksika ethical principles, cultural protocols, language and way of life.



"I feel so strongly that (social work education that is based in our own ways) will improve the lives of our people... This has never been done - over the years we've always had our social workers and other social workers come to us trained in the mainstream institutions. From what I can see, it has not been as effective as it could be if we use our own values, principles, and our way of life." *The Late, Margaret Waterchief, Knowledge Keeper, Siksika Nation (FNAHEC, 2008, 8:37)*

Please Contact Nadine Eagle Child, BA, IBSW, MEd
IBSW Program Coordinator, 403-734-3862 Ext. 251
Email: nadine.eaglechild@oldsuncollege.ca



APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 5, 2023

Application Package can be picked up from Reception at Old Sun Community College or contact Nadine to have it faxed/emailed.



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anirban bosu
Transmission Technical Manager
Direct Line: 403-267-7453
Email: anirban_bosu@transalta.com

April 7, 2023

RE: 733L-876L Transmission Line AERIAL PATROL

Dear Siksika Nation Resident,

As a resident living near the transmission lines, TransAlta wanted to let you know that on 01 May 2023, you may notice a helicopter flying above the transmission lines conducting inspections from the air as part of our annual maintenance program.

Every year, transmission companies conduct aerial inspections of the lines to identify maintenance needs as part of a maintenance program that ensures the safe continued operation of the electrical system. The helicopter provides a clear view from above and enables the many kilometers of transmission lines across the province to be inspected annually. The helicopter flies low over the transmission line at a medium high speed, approximately 75 km/hr. If anything is spotted by the helicopter which indicates maintenance would be required, the helicopter will circle around to confirm.

As the helicopter schedule is significantly impacted by both weather conditions and the availability of helicopters, the above schedule may change at the last moment.

If you have any questions with respect to this aerial patrol, please contact the undersigned at 1-403-267-7453.

Yours truly,

TRANSALTA CORPORATION

ANIRBAN BOSU
Transmission Technical Manager

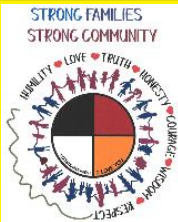
cc – by e-mail, to:
Hester Breaker, Senior Manager, Lands, Siksika Nation.

Energizing the Future.



ai kaa' yi saapi

PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION



matsi yi ka pi si ki som

APRIL 2023

iss i ka to yiks tsi ko	omh tsi s to kis si ka to yiks tsi ko	omh tiusks ka si ka to yiks tsi ko	ika tats tsi no pi	ta tsi kis tsi no pi
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Gaming Club 3:45pm-5pm @TBD Siksika Waterfowl Spring Hunt 8am-8:30pm @Siksika	4 Traditional Parenting 5pm-8pm @CO Calgary Blackfoot Jam Session 5pm-7pm @SSC Siksika Weightlifting Club 3:45pm-5pm @TBD Siksika	5 Bible Study 5pm-7pm @SSC Siksika Blackfoot Archery 8:30am-3pm @CCS Siksika Rites of Passage 6pm-7:30pm @CO Calgary	6 Wrestling Club 3:45pm-5pm @TBD Siksika	7 Big Smoke Ceremony 6pm-6am @MWCL Siksika
10 Waterfowl Spring Hunt 8am-8:30pm @Siksika	11 Traditional Parenting 5pm-8pm @CO Calgary Traditional Fathers 12pm-3pm @SSC Siksika Blackfoot Jam Session 5pm-7pm @SSC Siksika Movie Night 5pm-9pm @LMT Calgary	12 Communicating in Relationships 1pm-3pm @SSC Siksika Family Culture Night 6pm-8pm @SSC Siksika Blackfoot Archery 8:30am-3pm @COSS Siksika Ceremonial Dress 5pm-8pm @SSC Siksika	13 Cycle of Life 1pm-3pm @SSC Siksika Ceremonial Dress 5pm-8pm @SSC Siksika	14 Easter Fun for PEI Families 11:30am-2pm @Arbor Siksika Rap/HipHop with Dwight Farahat 10am-1pm @CO Calgary
17 Gaming Club 3:45pm-5pm @TBD Siksika Waterfowl Spring Hunt 8am-8:30pm @Siksika	18 Traditional Parenting 5pm-8pm @CO Calgary Traditional Fathers 12pm-3pm @SSC Siksika Blackfoot Jam Session 5pm-7pm @SSC Siksika Weightlifting Club 3:45pm-5pm @TBD Siksika	19 Bible Study 5pm-7pm @SSC Siksika Blackfoot Archery 8:30am-3pm @SNHS Siksika Ceremonial Dress 5pm-8pm @CO Calgary Rites of Passage 6:30pm-7:45pm @SSC Siksika	20 Wrestling Club 3:45pm-5pm @TBD Siksika Ceremonial Dress 5pm-8pm @CO Calgary	21 Holy Hand Games 4:30pm-8:30pm @MWCL Siksika
24 Gaming Club 3:45pm-5pm @TBD Siksika	25 Traditional Parenting 5pm-8pm @CO Calgary Traditional Fathers 12pm-3pm @SSC Siksika Blackfoot Jam Session 5pm-7pm @SSC Siksika Weightlifting Club 3:45pm-5pm @TBD Siksika	26 Orange Pin Beading 5pm-8pm @SSC Siksika Communicating in Relationships 1pm-3pm @CO Calgary Family Culture Night 6pm-8pm @CO Calgary Blackfoot Archery 8:30am-3pm @SOS Siksika	27 Orange Pin Beading 5pm-8pm @SSC Siksika Wrestling Club 3:45pm-5pm @TBD Siksika Cycle of Life 1pm-3pm @CO Calgary	28 Weekend Activity: Saturday, April 29, 2023 Telus Spark Science Centre 11am-3pm @Calgary Sunday, April 30, 2023 Telus Spark Science Centre 11am-3pm @Calgary
PROGRAM COLOUR KEY: Youth Culture Community Reunification Early Intervention PEI – Prevention/Early Intervention	FACILITIES: SSC – Siksika Support Centre MWCL – Margaret Water Chief Lodge Arbor – Gordon Yellowfly Memorial Arbor CO – Siksika Children's Services Calgary Office LMT – Landmark Theatre >>>	CCS – Chief Crowfoot School COSS – Chief Old Sun School SNHS – Siksika Nation High School SOS – Siksika Outreach School TBD – To Be Determined (Contact PEI Office for Info)		

INFO

TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS
PLEASE CONTACT TRACEY
@ (587) 743-0715

VISION STATEMENT

Keeping Our Families Together
Strong Families Strong Communities
Siksika Culture in Action



Ai'kaa'yi'saapi (To Look Ahead) is Siksika Prevention / Early Intervention. We are in place to enact the directive of Bill C-92 and the Truth and Reconciliation Committee to address prevention in First Nations Child and Family Services to ensure prevention/early intervention services

are provided. It is a culture-based program and strives to create and deliver programming that is Siksika culture specific. Our programs are guided by a committee of Knowledge keepers from the Siksika community. Our

mandate is to reduce the number of children entering care and to increase the number of children returned to parents. We offer Cultural programming, Youth programming, Community Education programming and Prevention

programming. Ai'kaa'yi'saapi is comprised of a Culture team, Prevention/Early intervention team, Reunification team, Youth team, and a Community Education team. All our programming is free and provided to all members of Siksika. If you would like to learn more about our programming keep your eyes open for our calendars which are posted at major Siksika agencies and services. A culturally designed program to help the Siksika children and their families stay together. Please add us on Facebook

AHKAIISAHPIIYAA/Siksika Prevention-Early Intervention & Instagram - aikaayisaapi for current events and programming! Contact us at 587-743-0715. Aisspomotsiiyiks (Those who Help) Mobile Unit A mobile unit that consists of multiple agencies that will be set up in different communities on the nation. The intent is to connect with Elders, families, youth and children and provide appropriate supports and to access services in your home community.

Volunteers continued (Page 3)

in and around the memorial Arbour.

The team started early in the morning and worked together in taking care of the grounds along the paved pathways.

“It’s going good,” says Tracy Many Heads, one of the volunteers from the Justice department. “We have almost 8 bags and we’re only halfway done the Arbour.”

For Siksika Elders, the day is also about morning prayers for “beings of mother earth.”

“Traditionally, every day is an Earth Day for elders,” says Clarence “Agar” Wolfleg, Public speaker and spiritual leader from Siksika Nation. “Because they care not to put things out there on mother Earth, that’s going to hurt mother Earth like bottles and cans and all kinds of things we have today. In the old days, they even had a way of disposing of things so that mother Earth would be okay. They look at the Earth as a living being.”

Lone Wolf
By Siksika Media

An unconfirmed sighting of a wolf in Little Chicago prompted Animal Services to investigate one of the reports near the Bow River and Bridge Crossing area. Due to cases of large breed dogs which have gone missing in the area, a follow-up to one of the sightings was conducted. Leo Running Rabbit, Animal Control Officer, is seeking evidence to support one or more of the cases.

“What we have at the moment is that it is a lone wolf,” says Running Rabbit, whose teams are working on getting through the thick brush to check for wolf dens, located around the river.

One of the team’s resources is the Northern Lights Wolf Centre in Golden, British Columbia (B.C.). Shelly Black, owner of the wolf centre, says identifying wildlife by their features and behaviours reduces fears surrounding their presence.

“To tell the difference between a wolf and coyote, a wolf has rounded features, rounded ears,” says Black. “They [wolves] are going to be more ‘lurkier.’” Black hopes people are aware that wildlife in general is using areas such as park communities and to keep attractants away like outside garbage or pet food on the porch when sightings occur.

“It’s probably not going to pick up residency but there’s probably more wolves and wildlife that use that river valley than you guys can imagine,” says Black. “It is definitely an animal corridor... the wildlife is using the rivers and streams regularly so that is their highways.”

For more information on Northern Lights Wolf Centre, visit <https://northern-lightswildlife.com/>.

Animal Services advises extra caution and if you see a wolf and can confirm please call (403) 734-3815 and ask to speak to an animal services officer or leave them a message.

Siksika People, Places and Faces



Miss AFCC Mohkinnstsis Princess 2022-2023 Selena Medicine Shield speaks at Spring Fever Sober Party hosted by AFCC at Marlborough Community Centre on Mar. 31.

Photo: Albert Woo



Siksika Coun. Candace Backfat (centre) attends Spring Fever with friends and family.

Photo: Albert Woo



Owl Dance hand drummers at Margaret Waterchief lodge on Mar. 21.

Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle



Miss Natosapi Princess 2022-2023 at Oahu, Hawaii Powwow.

Photo: Chief Old Sun School



Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medals (Alberta). From left: Maria Big Snake, Acting President, Old Sun Community College; Andrea Lagrelle, Post Secondary Acting Manager; Eileen Black, Elder Representative from Siksika.

Photo: Old Sun Community College



Joe Sanchez, Head Technician at Royal Tyrrel Museum in Drumheller, AB, speaking on the average human next to prehistoric snail shells.

Photo: Shayde Yellow Old Woman

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