

Wisdom on the Go with NIEA

by Tiffany (Stuart) Wisdom



Tiffany Wisdom (right), other students from Haskell, and a robot

Day'la'ha – Hello my relatives. I wanted to share some information and exciting news with you.

I recently attended the National Indian Education Association Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 12-14, 2007.

During this time, I spoke with BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) Director Jim Cason; BIE (Bureau of Indian Education) Director Thomas Dowd; and the staff representatives of Sens. Hillary Clinton (New York), Harry Reid (Nevada), and Lamar Alexander (Tennessee), and Rep. George Miller (California).

This was my first experience lobbying for Indian education (in D.C., they say "lobbying on the hill"). NIEA staff/representatives gave a presentation on Legislative 101. This was a great help for people who have never lobbied on the hill before.

NIEA scheduled all the meetings with state representatives for the Legislative Summit attendees. It would be great if our tribe could send representative(s) next year. NIEA always is willing to help tribes that would like to meet with all their state representatives.

I will make sure for next year's summit that information is distributed through *Siletz News* and to the Tribal Council. It's great for the Oregon representatives in Washington, D.C., to hear your personal story and meet you face to face – this is how we are going to educate them on Indian education in Oregon.

I have a limited knowledge of Indian education in Oregon. I plan to visit with our tribal representatives in Indian education to gain knowledge to tell the senators and representatives their stories. I encourage all to write your state delegates and tell them your story on Indian education.

I opened our day in the Senate House Indian Affairs Committee room with a blessing. I sang Grandpa Ben's feather dance song and Grandpa Hoxie Simmons' song for the delegates.

I started with my introduction and told the members that 30 years ago my grandfather, Robert Rilatos, came to

D.C., the place I am today. Our reasons for coming to D.C. are the same today as in the past – to stand up for our sovereign nations.

I was on the MC panel as an NIEA Board of Directors member to introduce representatives to speak to our summit.

I attended the NASA pre-service teachers conference in Alexandria, Va., just over the bridge from Washington, D.C., on Feb. 15-17.

Four students from Haskell Indian Nations University's School of Education were chosen for this trip; Woody Wilson (Choctaw), Darrell Frank (Forest County Potawatomi), Cassie Kitcheyan (Winnebago/San Carlos Apache), and myself. We attended useful workshops that gave us great tips and resources to use as future teachers.

I competed in the talent show and won second place. I told the traditional Kalapuya story *Crow Lady*. I received a TI-73 calculator and teacher kit.

I would like to thank NASA for sponsoring our school to attend this conference.

Finally on this trip to D.C., I visited The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

It was moving to be in such a place that represents who I am and where I'm going. I encourage you to visit if you have a chance (www.nmai.si.edu).

It was an honor to represent my tribe – Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; my family – Stuart, Rilatos, Ben, Simmons, Butler; my school – Haskell Indian Nations University; and the National Indian Education Association. I would like to thank God, my creator, for his blessing on my life.

Hvm'chi

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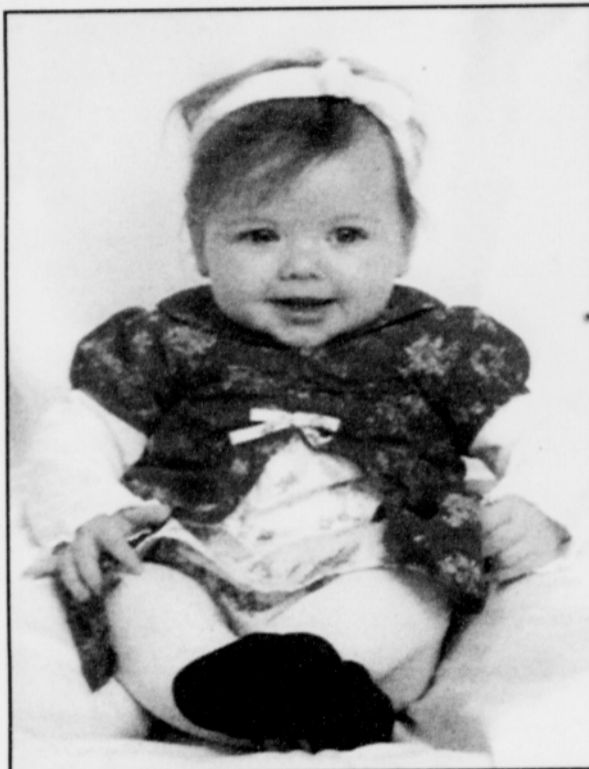
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National Indian Education Association

Board of Directors Member

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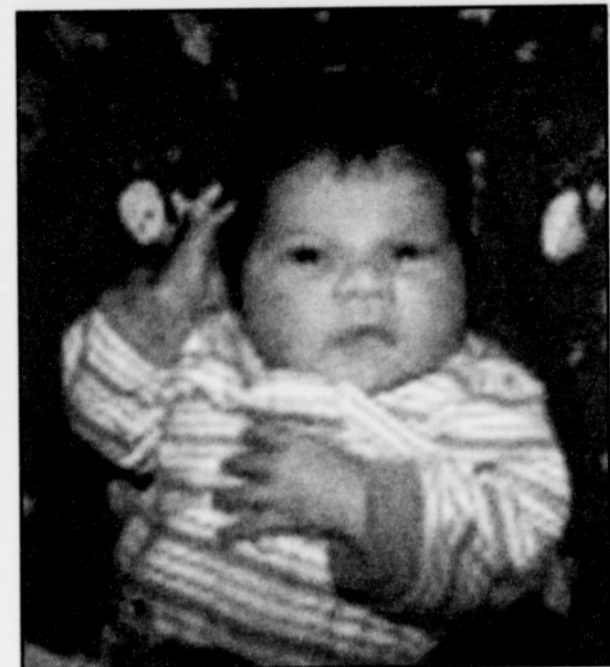
New Babies!



Kierra Star Hudson

Kierra was born Sept. 30, 2006. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20¼ inches long.

Her parents are Mike and Krissy Hudson. She is the granddaughter of Bill and Karen Hudson, Kathleen and John Nunez, and Jake and Kathy Backer. She is the great-granddaughter of Gladys Bolton and Ruth Lermusiaux.



Sean Robert Lussier

The Hibdon and Rilatos families would like you to join us in welcoming our handsome grandson, Sean Robert Lussier.

Sean was born Feb. 1, 2007, to Heidi Hibdon and Gilbert Lussier. He weighed in at 9 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21¾ inches long.

Sean is the grandson of Larry and Valerie Hibdon, Roxanne and Stuart Desjarlait, and Gilbert Lussier Sr. of Red Lake, Minn.; and the great-grandson of Maxine Rilatos and Sally and Albert Hibdon.

Congratulations, Heidi and Gilbert – he's beautiful!

Pigsley Wins District Championship

Timmy Pigsley, a sophomore at McNary High School in Keizer, Ore., won the district title in the 145-pound weight class at the Central Valley Conference Tournament.

Timmy entered the competition as a fifth seed. On his way to the title, he beat

the No. 4 seed 8-0, the No. 1 seed 13-10, and the No. 2 seed for the title 11-5.

Timmy was the only McNary wrestler to win a title. As a freshman, he placed fifth in last year's competition.

Congratulations, Timmy!



First Dance

I had the privilege of dancing with my grandson, Aidan Healy, at the Chemawa birthday pow-wow on Feb. 17. It was fitting that his first dance was there as our family has a long history at Chemawa.

We were able to share that day with lots of family – Aidan's parents, Jenera and Daniel Healy; Grandpa Carl; Uncle Jeremy; Great-Aunt Rae; great-grandparents Donna and Warren Woods; Great-Great-Aunt Sis; and Great-Great-Aunt Dorothy.

Send Us News

Siletz News is looking for

information about tribal members similar to the articles you see on these pages, positive news about you or someone you know.

We'll include info on births, graduations, awards, the Armed Services, weddings, and deaths.

Contact info is on page 2.