Falloween Celebration Contest Winners!

Scary Food Contest
1st Place: "Zombie Intestines" by Paula Bremner
2nd Place: "Eyeball Cake" by Loni Birdsbill
3rd Place: "Dirt and Worms" by Kourtney BullChild

Costume Contest Winners:
1st Alden Spoonhunter "Young Guns, Chavez"
2nd Paula Bremner "Leeloo"
3rd Michael Fast Buffalo Horse "Ghost of Technology"

Upcoming Events

November
- 13th Student Senate Coat Drive and Give away
- 13th - Craft Night - Quilting 4-6 pm Medicine Spring Library
- 17th- Blackfeet Language Day 11am-4pm
- 22nd-23rd AIBL Fundraising Xmas Bazaar
- 25th- 6-8pm Open Mic Night

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Running Eagle Falls and Logan Pass

Being a student in the Experiential Learning Program, sponsored by a USDA Equity Grant, at Blackfeet Community College is a unique experience. We get to go on a number of field trips every Wednesday. On our most recent trips, we went to Logan Pass and Running Eagle Falls, both located in Glacier National Park. We had a blast learning about plants, the land, and the history of Running Eagle Falls.

At Running Eagle Falls we learned the story of Pita Makan, the woman after which the waterfall was named. She was given a male name because she was very successful and one of the first women in the tribe to ever become a warrior. Our instructor at the time, William BigBull, was the one who told us the story of Running Eagle. He also told us about survival gear in the wild, as well as self defense.

On a side note I jumped into the water. It was cold, but also nice. On the next Wednesday we went to Logan pass to hike and to check out the view. It is a very beautiful place and a popular tourist attraction. It was a pretty good workout as well, and I would recommend the hike to anyone who enjoys nature. The lakes, mountains, trees, and the view are worth the trip, and it is a place that is only a few hours drive away.

-Article by Greg Gobert
Differences Between Whitetail Deer and Mule Deer. -Article by Raegyn Kittson

- **The Face** - Mule deer have much more white on their face than a whitetail. Mule deer have much darker foreheads than white tails

- **The Ears** - Mule deer have longer ears, that is why they get their name.

- **The Rump** - Whitetails almost always have a brown patch that covers a fairly large area of their rear

- **The Tail** - A whitetail gets its name from its tail. The long tail has a white underside that they raise and flash to signal other deer. Mule deer don’t have this, they have a much smaller tail with a range of colors on it.

- **Antlers** - Most pure mule deer have forks in their antlers. Most will have very short brow lines, or none at all.

- **Body Size** - Mule deer are typically bigger

- **Behavior** - Mule deer are slightly more accepting to hunters and pressure. Whitetails just tuck or raise their tails and run for the hills.

- **The Attitude** - Whitetails are much more aggressive than Mule deer.

The early winter storms on the Blackfeet Reservation excite hunters because of the outcome of the winter storm pushing both the Mule Deer and the whitetail Elk out and spreading them throughout the reservation. A couple good places on the Reservation to get Mule Deer is Babb out in a place called Hooks Highway, and a good area to get Whitetails is down by Boarding School past Bear Paw. The more snow we have, the better the hunting season.
On Wednesday, October 16, 2019, upon arrival to Writing On Stone the Equity Program felt a peacefulness and a spiritual tie to the monumental site as Blackfeet people. For some in the program, it was the first time going into Canada and seeing a part of Pikunii history but they, as Pikunii people, still felt the importance of our trip. The Writing On Stone park in Canada is an area protected by the Kainai. The beauty of the pictographs and writings from Pikunii people that date thousands of years is amazing to feel. The area has a strong cultural significance for the people and a strong cultural tie to all of the Blackfoot confederacy.

In the Blackfoot traditions, the world around us is the work of Napi, who gained his powers from the Creator. Napi did a wonderful job making the land, and special places like Writing On Stone (Aisenâ’ai”pi) were put here for a reason. These places are where significant things happened to the ancestors of the Blackfoot and where the ancient stories took place. Even non-members feel the calmness of the beautiful area. There is an inner peace found by those that observe and make a connection with the area.

In the beginning, Star beings and humans angered Naatoâ€œsi (sun), so he sent a great flood to drown the people. Then Napi gave piled up mud to make the backbone of the world, the Rocky Mountains. Napi then continued across the land and made the hills and valleys, and filled the lakes and rivers with water. Next he formed animals and planets and gave them life. Finally, Napi created humans, and taught them how to survive. Ever since, the Blackfoot have inhabited the world Napi created for them.

We walked through the area and found old pictographs and historical battle scenes from the ancestors of the Blackfeet people. As we walked, we felt the peacefulness of the area and how people can feel calm there. We ran into the caretaker of the area, a 38 year veteran with the Canadian military, and he told us that while staying at the Writing On Stone area he enjoyed, “the best sleep I ever got” since his service, and that he feels a power that the stones and river gives to the person.

The pictographs of the battle scenes in the area are all visions of a battle to come, not, as was assumed by settlers, a battle history. Most anthropologists believed that they were all stories after the battle was over, but in reality they were visions and dreams of warriors dying and fighting beforehand. The area is of very important cultural significance because it is where warriors had power and visions. In the present day, much of the area is destroyed by modern graffiti over the ancient pictographs.

- Article by Matt Leigh Conway and Max Spotted Bear
Star Lab

When it comes to the sky we often think of one thing: the stars. Once we decide to gaze up at them they can be very mystifying and alluring to us. So much so that cultures worldwide have managed to see shapes, constellations, formed by the stars. Many cultures have connected the stars to their legends, and use them to help tell their stories as well as their history.

It should come as no surprise that our culture, the Blackfeet culture, has also connected the stars to our legends and stories. Some stories are that of the Seven Brothers, the Twin Brothers, and Scarface, among many others. One can see the stars that these stories are connected to if one just knows where to look.

Of course sometimes the weather takes a turn and the night sky is obscured, or maybe one lives in a city and the lights keep one from seeing the stars at night. This is the case with most places in the world today. The weather and society seems to work against the stars. So how does one see the stars in a society and world that is slowly obscuring it?

The answer is a star lab; a large inflatable dome that, with a certain type of light projector and slides, can show us the stars once inside. Liberal Arts, a class in Blackfeet Community College, has a star lab granted to us that we use on Wednesday. We only use it when the weather takes a turn, and while not as mystifying or alluring as the actual stars, it is a nice and relaxing experience. It is a good place to tell stories. Stories of the stars and the many legends connected to them. We even have a slide that shows many figures in the night sky that belong to Blackfeet Culture.

-Article by Jhett Valandra

Full Moon Report

The names of the moons varied over time, and from band to band. We are starting the winter moon season of the year.

October Full Moon, October 13, 2019 names include “When winter starts”; “First Big Storm”; “When Leaves Fall Off”.

November Full Moon, November 12, 2019, “When Winter Starts”; “When Geese Fly South”; “When Big Winds Blow”.

-Leo Bird
On October 17th, 2019, there was a meeting held by Teri Dahle, the Coordinator of Iinii Initiative, that attracted members of the public, members of other tribes, as well as Native educators to the Blackfeet Community College Library. The Iinii Initiative is a community based initiative that provides care for the two herds of wild buffalo given back to the Blackfoot tribe from Elk Island. The buffalo were DNA tested and traced back to the Blackfoot people. The purpose of the meeting was to expand buffalo education to our children, to better the traditional thought process, and to encourage the youth to use this thought process and language, all centered and encouraged by the Iinii. Leo Bird, teaching Pikunii History at BCC, and encouraging students to engage and use their Pikunii knowledge, said, “Every time we make decisions, it is important to include the youth to carry on the thought process.” The initiative provides meat from the buffalo for ceremonial uses, elders, and people in need. The initiative encourages Iinii education and provides drones to view the herds from above. They are currently looking for the ideal place to release the herds to be wild again. Leo Bird says, “The buffalo do not belong to the initiative, our people have ownership in the buffalo.”

-Article by Ryana HeavyRunner
BCC CHRISTMAS CHOIR (ART CLUB)

We have an art club! Did you know about it? Blackfeet Community College’s Art Club is located in the newly named **Muskrat Lodge**, formally known as the Higher Ed building. You won’t mistake the room because you will notice disco ball that floats in the window. The Art Club provides a bunch of cool equipment, such as water colors, acrylics, charcoal, pastels, stencil cutters & two airbrushes. Our art club also provides a screen printing press, our most recent edition! Aside from the visual arts in Muskrat Lodge, you will also find a piano, guitar, & bass. Personally, I think that’s superb. It gets even more spectacular once you explore it yourself & dive into your own creativity!

Students recently came to us with the splendid idea that BCC should hold a Christmas Choir. The Art Club decided to partake in such an experience. Come join our Christmas Choir! Let us vibe & create something special for the upcoming season. Meetings will take place every Tuesday, starting November 5th, at 2pm. If you’re interested in singing, or just want a place to draw or paint, contact Gordon Bennett at gordon.b@bfcc.edu for more information, or simply show up during regular Art Club hours which are:

Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1:30 to 4pm.
On Tuesday, October 22, 2019, we got the chance to sit down and ask the new Blackfeet Community College president, Dr. Karla Bird, some questions over lunch. As we ate, we asked her a series of questions. From the outset of our conversation, it was obvious how much Dr. Bird cares about this institution. In fact, it is her undying belief in tribal colleges that made her want to become president.

Her first priority as president is to immediately ensure our campus is trauma informed. “Our history has been severely impacted by trauma. We need to acknowledge and heal through communication,” she says. In days gone by, education was “a tool of assimilation and harm.” Now, and into the future, she hopes education will be viewed as a chance to learn about our people, to seek out new opportunities for providing a quality life for our families, and as a way to preserve and revitalize our language.

Karla recently earned her doctorate degree at the University of Montana, where she had studied for eleven years. Karla also has a Bachelors in psychology with research emphasis, with minor in Native American studies, and a masters in counseling. She wanted to be in leadership, “because she wanted to create change.”

When asked what skills one needs to go from Browning all the way through a doctorate program, she replied, “Self advocacy. Ask questions. You’re creating your own pathway. Put yourself out there, say yes, and don’t make decisions based off of fear.” She claims that she didn’t know how to study, she had to ask questions, she had to talk to instructors, she had to learn the system.

She then shared with us some of her obstacles she has faced here at the college. She told us that the first problem she had to deal with was when someone called her saying, “There’s horses on the property.” As for major issues, things that cannot be solved overnight, she mentioned saving resources for workforce development, fiscal responsibility, environmental sustainability, and supporting faculty among the issues that will take some time to fix.

Karla also shared with us her favorite part of the job: The students. Coming from a background in counseling and psychology, she enjoys spending time getting to know students one-on-one. Dr. Bird wants it known that the third Wednesday of every month she sponsors an event called Pizza with the President. She encourages anyone to come down to eat pizza and visit with her and to share our visions for BCC.

*Article by Tyler Brown*