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Sparkles Beauty Salon opening soon in Browning! Page A7



January 12, 2022



Reservation returns to restricted opening with increase in cases

By JOHN MCGILL
Glacier Reporter Editor

A recent rise in COVID-19 cases is a concern for the Blackfeet Tribal Council and they have taken action to address the increase. "There were more than a hundred new cases as of last Friday," said Public Information Officer James McNeely on Monday, Jan. 10. The numbers prompted the Tribe to take action to return to Phase 2-Restricted Opening through Jan. 24. The restricted opening took effect immediately on Jan. 10.

structions in an effort to reduce community spread of COVID-19, specifically addressing the highly contagious Omicron variant:

- Community members should stay in place at their primary residence and refrain from interaction between homes of extended families and friends. Exceptions will be made for childcare, eldercare and other types of essential care.

- In-person meetings are permitted for essential tribal or civic duties as long as the guidelines are in place. Video conferencing is encouraged whenever possible.

- The mask mandate is hereby reinstated in all public places.

- On-reservation travel is restricted to essentials including grocery shopping, obtaining medications and medical attention.

- No in-person gatherings, including but not limited to weddings, birthdays, sporting events no spectators, or spiritual gatherings at 50% capacity (churches).

- Funerals shall be limited to 25 people indoors as long as social distancing can be accomplished and proper sanitizing is made available. Graveside for immediate family with the advanced approval of a committee including the Safety Officer, Tribal Public Health, Incident Command.

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According to information released by KWebb Galbreath, Blackfeet COVID-19 Incident Commander, case counts and the availability of testing is of the utmost importance and is being monitored and updated frequently in order to direct the community's COVID-19 response and Phase Plan. Phase 2 Restricted Opening recommends community members abide by the following in-



Although City officials in both Cut Bank and Shelby had reports the Family Dollar-Dollar Tree stores in their communities were scheduled to open this week, Family Dollar officials confirmed on Monday, Jan. 10, the stores won't be opening this week, but they anticipate them opening very soon. The Cut Bank store is located on the west edge of town and is over 10,000 sq.ft. in size. The Shelby store is located on the west edge of Shelby on the lot which housed the former McDonald's restaurant.

West Tiber columnist Iva Kolstad wraps up career with final article



Iva Kolstad

By JENNIFER VAN HEEL
Shelby Promoter

All good things must come to an end. When I received the email this Monday morning from West Tiber reporter, Iva Kolstad, this would be her last article, well, it brought a pang to my heart and tears to my eyes. I felt like I was losing a long-time friend.

I have never met Iva, in person. But I have been receiving her emails for the past 10 years. Prior to that, when I worked for the Promoter before, dating back to the early 2000s, I'd

type up Iva's news, as the world of email had not yet been entered by her. Years of reading her column and responding to her emails created a bond, one I'm not even sure either of us realized we had.

It is with great sadness that I proofread and format her last article that is found in this week's edition of the paper. Her sense of humor, her stories, her history lessons and her weekly community updates will be missed.

So I just want to take a moment to say thank you, thank you Iva, for sharing your stories, keeping us updated on everything from the weather to current events to who was at church last week. Your little stories that teach lessons, your jokes and your opinion on what's going on in the world, they will be missed.

Thank you for your dedication, your honesty and sharing so much over the many years you have contributed to this newspaper. Take care my friend, and God bless.

(Iva's farewell column appears on page A13.)

Fishing is a family affair for the Forbes

By CAROL GREEN
The Valerian



The family who plays in the cold gets the most fish, or so it would seem. Avid fishermen no matter the season, Kevin and Heidi Forbes and son, Kolter, have found ice fishing to be a great way to endure the frigid winters in north-central Montana.

When asked what is the best thing about ice fishing, Heidi replied, "First and foremost, it gets you out of the house in the winter time. Not very many outdoor activities in our area. Second, any type of fishing is fun!"

Both Kevin and Heidi grew up fishing with their fathers. "It was a passion of theirs. They passed that onto us. It's something we love to do anytime of the year," explained Heidi.

Ice fishing has provided some fond memories over the years including a bus, a hot game of Yahtzee, and lots of laughs. Heidi also likes having a nice stock of fish in the freezer to provide a good fish fry to enjoy with friends.

Kolter Forbes is a former winner of the Youth Division of the VADC Ice Fishing Derby with this nearly 7 lb. Pike. He will be looking to land another big one at Saturday's derby. See page A7 for derby details.

The Forbes are passing that same passion on to their son. "We were lucky that Kolter enjoys it as much as we do," Heidi continued.

"The best thing (about ice fishing) is catching big pike and keeping them," said Kolter. Pike are not allowed in the boat during summer due to their slimy nature. He also enjoys spending time with friends and family. Kolter has crafted his own lures and it gives him an opportunity to try them out.

There's always a story to accompany a fishing trip. Heidi tells of one occasion when there was a rod unattended for a short time in the icehouse. "Kevin came back and found it gone. A "friend" who was fishing about 20 feet away came over a short while later and said he caught a nice Walleye with someone's rod! An unfortunate circumstance turned into a lucky ending."

The Forbes were free with information regarding the conditions. With the recent below zero temperatures

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