

Dykeman

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lowed to cut our fingers.”
Because she went through a special ceremony to become a “blood sister,” the Blackfeet accepted her request to return to the tribe with an honorary membership.

The Blackfeet Nation is one of 562 federally recognized tribal entities in the United States. The Blackfeet reservation -- called “Blackfeet” because of the black hue on their moccasins -- is located on 1.5 million acres in Northwestern Montana and is home to 7,500 of nearly 14,700 members, according to the tribe’s Web site, www.blackfeetnation.com. Many of its members also live in the Pacific Northwest.

When he learned about the honor, Dykeman’s son, Matthew “Shadow Walker” Benjamin, 45, of Fairfield, Conn. drove to Cave Junction to pick up Dykeman’s husband, Jim -- who has Cherokee Indian in his bloodline-- and take him on the journey to accept the honorary membership in her place.

They presented sage and six trees as a gift to the tribe when they accepted Dykeman’s membership in a ceremony on Aug. 5.

The membership certificate, which she now proudly hangs in her hallway in her CJ home, states in part: “As a child she was part of our community and now wishes to return ... She has the right to return at her convenience.”

The certificate, signed by Chief Earl Old Person, hangs alongside a shadow box that includes an eagle feather, American flag and a flag from the Blackfeet Nation.

Dykeman, sparrow thin but strong, and with very short hair from her cancer treatments, said she was speechless and tearful for 10 minutes as she stared at the certificate.

“I was honored and kind of flabbergasted,” she said. “It was an honor even for my husband. He learned he can also become an honorary Blackfoot Indian if he wants to go through ceremony.”

She said it was especially sweet that her son, who she was reunited with in 1998 after giving him up for adoption as a baby, was able to participate in the ceremony.

Despite her cancer, Dykeman said her American Indian ways of life will live on in her family long after she is gone as her grandchildren are learning Native American traditions.



SHINY AND NEW - New lockers and a new stage await LBMS students.

Burglars hit more CJ targets ...

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ger side window rolled down slightly, because whoever broke in gained access by pushing the window all the way to the side, removing the screen and then unlocking the door.

Except for an unmade bed and a few opened cupboards, nothing seemed to have been damaged inside, he noted.

Campbell said he then noticed the items that had been taken which include a 13” TV from the bedroom area, the vacuum, clock, VCR, and other items.

A pillowcase was also taken, likely used to carry these items away.

In addition, the suspect (s), also tried unsuccessfully to remove a 20” built-in TV in the front part of the RV.

Campbell said he thinks that is likely why the same burglars returned late Sunday night or early Monday morning, Aug. 17 and 18 to again try to remove the large TV.

“They were probably interrupted the first time or didn’t want to spend the time (to remove it),” he said.

This time the suspect (s) threw large rocks at the windshield and also at the driver’s side window to gain access inside.

Two new inverters, a CB radio and CD player were stolen, but the burglars again were unsuccessful in trying to get the TV, Campbell said.

“They tore up stuff up pretty bad,” he said, noting the cupboards had been rummaged through and stuff had been strewn about.

Sheriff’s deputies responded to both of Campbell’s calls.

No fingerprints were taken after the first burglary, but a brown “Starter” baseball cap that was left at the scene was given to Deputy Mario Torres, who answered the call, Campbell said.

Fingerprints were taken after the second incident from a knife at the scene and also from a bent potato peeler that appeared to be used to try and take the radio from the dashboard, he added.

“I know our people are working on leads,” said Sheriff Dave Daniel. “I don’t want to jeopardize any investigations. A number of citizens have come forward with leads and even some names.”

Campbell said if deputies were to drive around the park at night like they used to, it might dissuade vandals and burglars from entering the park.

“That’s what we need,” he said, adding it might also be helpful to have more park security where the RVs are parked, such as a fence around the vehicles.

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Carolyn graduated from the Yale Medical School Physician Associate program, and has been dedicated to providing quality health care in the Illinois Valley for the past five years. In this new association with Jim, who is celebrating ten years here, she will be available on a regular basis, by appointment, for Women’s Health Care, adolescent medicine, and general family practice. Cave Junction Family medicine is still accepting new patients.

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