

LU hosts American Indian students

By Kate McGinty
Appleton Post-Crescent

APPLETON, Wis. — More than 70 American Indians are in Appleton this week to train to become what one tribal member called leaders of their nation.

Lawrence University is playing host to College Horizons, a college prep course for high school students with American Indian roots.

During the five-day workshop, which wraps up Wednesday, students work with admissions counselors to search for potential college matches. They visit with representatives from more than 30 colleges, including Harvard, Princeton and Yale universities.

Then they create resumes, fill out college applications and compose essays. They also score tips on applying for financial aid and taking the ACT or SAT exams.

The program, which is hosted annually at two sponsor colleges, pushes American Indian students to find the confidence and training to attend post-secondary school, said Adrienne Keene, a 2000 graduate who went on to Stanford University.

Keene, a Cherokee Indian, now works in Stanford's admissions department recruiting native students and returned this year to College Horizons as a representative of the school.

"After seeing how successful this program is and realizing the absolute disparities in education — especially for native students — I feel like I can't not give back," she said. "By staying involved in College Horizons and staying involved with native recruitment, I'm really building up the future of the leaders of Indian country and the future of our tribes and our people."

The program attracted 77 students to Lawrence. In all, they represented 22 states and 50 tribes.

Whitney Laughlin, founder and director of College Horizons, said the program builds on their cultural traditions and values by focusing on the relationships students build with mentors and counselors.

Her method has worked: Graduates of the program now boast an impressive post-secondary graduation rate. During 10 years of the program, an average of 85 percent have earned their bachelor's degrees within five years of graduating from high school.

"I looked around and I was like, 'Who is the least served?' If you look at a lot of minority programs, the people who are the most absent are the Native Americans," Laughlin said. "It changes people's lives."

It changed the future for Carol Two Hawk, a sophomore from South Dakota. She discovered opportunities she long ago dismissed.

The 15-year-old from the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe dreamed of going to Harvard but assumed it would be too expensive — until she learned about financial aid.

"I was really happy. It has expanded more of my views and really opened a lot of doors," she said.

Lawrence is not specifically trying to recruit the students by hosting the camp, said Steve Syverson, LU's vice president of enrollment. But the admissions department does expect to see a jump in American Indian students' applications.

"We feel like having as diverse of a population as possible makes it a more rich educational environment for everybody that's participating," he said. "To avoid having this be a particularly socio-economically segregated world or society, we need to make sure there's greater participation rates from those folks."

Each student will head home with a completed college application in hand when College Horizons ends Wednesday afternoon.

Makahs serve time for illegally killing whale

By Lynda V. Mapes
Seattle Times

TACOMA, Wash. — A federal judge Monday decided to lock up two Makah tribal members for illegally killing a gray whale last fall, while three others received two years' probation.

As part of the plea deal reached with federal prosecutors, whalers William Secor, Theron Parker and Frankie Gonzales also will have to perform community service in Neah Bay ranging from 100 to 150 hours, according to the sentence imposed by United States Magistrate Judge Kelley Arnold in U.S. District Court in Tacoma.

Two other whalers, Andy Noel and Wayne Johnson, did not take the deal and were found guilty in a bench trial of the same misdemeanor charge of violating the Marine Mammal Protection Act. They have appealed their convictions.

Johnson received the longest sentence, five months at the federal detention center in SeaTac — more than double what prosecutors had requested. Noel is to serve 90 days. Prosecutors had recommended 60 days' imprisonment for each. Each also will serve a year of probation and perform community service.

The judge also prohibited all five men from taking part in any whale hunt while on probation. "They've had their whale hunt," the judge said.

He fined the men from \$25 to \$50 each, citing an inability for them to pay higher fines.

In imposing the heavier jail time on Noel and Johnson, the judge said he saw them as the leaders. He also said he did not believe they undertook the hunt with the implied permission of the Makah Tribal Council, as some of the whalers claimed in documents provided to the court.

"I don't believe it, and if they did it's no excuse," Arnold said. He added that he believed Johnson felt "not an ounce of remorse."

"A conspiracy of silence"

The judge made his displeasure plain from the bench, stating that while Sherman Alexie is his favorite author and his interest in tribal matters intense — he referenced a personal library full of books about Indian affairs — he could not sympathize with what the whalers had done.

"They decided to take the law into their own hands. They defied their own community and the laws of this country, which they well

knew."

He said Johnson's attorney was "disingenuous" for suggesting there was no difference in the role played by the whalers in the hunt, and accused the whalers of "a conspiracy of silence" to protect each other. "The Court didn't just fall off the turnip truck," he snapped. "I can make an independent judgment as to who is more responsible."

The judge also accused Johnson of "thumbing his nose at the court" for declining to address him and explain himself. He ordered the men taken into custody immediately after the sentencing.

Noel caught his father's eye and waved goodbye. Johnson, in a dress shirt and tie, looked stunned as the bailiff took away the men's keys and cellphones and led them out of the courtroom.

In September, the five men killed a gray whale in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, shooting it at least 16 times and sinking at least four harpoons into its flesh. The animal bled for some 12 hours before dying and sinking to the bottom.

The poaching was a black eye for the Makah Tribe, which is seeking a waiver from the federal government

to allow it to legally hunt gray whales. A decision is years away on the tribe's proposal to kill up to 20 whales over five years.

The Makah are the only tribe in the country with a treaty right to whale, and the tribal council in 1998 entered into an agreement with the federal government allowing the tribe to legally hunt and kill its first whale in more than 70 years, in May 1999.

But last September, the whalers had no permit from either the tribe or the federal government. The whalers were indicted by a federal grand jury in October and charged with conspiracy, unlawful taking of a marine mammal and unauthorized whaling, misdemeanors punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$100,000 fine.

Some say sentence too light

Some animal-rights activists were disappointed with the sentence imposed.

"I think it's light, given the grave injury that was done," said Will Anderson, of Friends of the Gray Whale. "It's sad all the way around."

Naomi Rose, senior scientist with the Humane Society of the United States, called jail time for Johnson and Noel "appropriate."

"I'm glad they got jail

time. They didn't express remorse," she said. "There's no point in any of this if they don't learn something. I find this whole thing really sad. It divided a tribe and a community."

Other wildlife crimes have brought stiffer punishment. In June, a Grays Harbor County man lost his hunting privileges for two years after pleading guilty to illegally killing a blacktail deer. He also was fined \$2,700, sentenced to two years probation, and had to pay a \$3,000 fee for the return of his hunting rifle seized during the poaching investigation.

The defendants originally faced punishment on tribal charges of a year in the Neah Bay jail, \$5,000 fines and temporary suspension of their treaty right to hunt and fish. In a news conference after the rogue hunt, the tribal council called for punishment to the fullest extent of the law.

In the end, the tribal prosecutor asked the tribal judge to defer any punishment and drop all charges in return for a year's good behavior. When the tribal judge insisted on going to trial, the court struggled to impanel a jury, despite subpoenaing 200 people. The judge then went with the prosecutor's plan. Myers has since been dismissed.

"Step it up"



Courtesy Photo

Community members of Sawmill, Ariz., participate in the first "Step it Up!" Walk and Run Series held recently. The event was to encourage people to get out and exercise and also to fight diabetes on the reservation.

Las Vegas company sells stake in Wyandotte County casino proposal

By Rick Alm
The Kansas City Star

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — One of the partners in a Wyandotte County casino proposal dropped out of the running Monday.

Mohegan Resorts Kansas LLC, a subsidiary of the Connecticut-based Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority, said Monday it has acquired for an undisclosed sum the one-third interest in the proposed Legends Sun casino project held by Las Vegas-based Olympia Gaming.

Kansas City-based RED Development LLC, owner of The Legends at Village West shopping and entertainment district in Wyandotte County, becomes a minority owner in the casino proposal with its one-third interest.

The casino would be adjacent to the retail complex,

just north of Kansas Speedway.

Keith Kocher, the Kansas Lottery's director of gaming facilities, said the change in ownership is not expected to affect the group's application for a contract to manage a state-owned casino. Five companies are seeking one contract in Wyandotte County that is expected to be awarded in September.

In a brief statement Monday, Olympia officials confirmed the sale of their interest in the Kansas project.

The company said the move was designed to free up Olympia to focus on its growing portfolio of in-state projects in Nevada. A company spokesman declined further comment.

Olympia operates Casino Fandango in Carson City, Nev., and has several gaming

developments under way, including a casino resort and retail project, also called the Legends, in partnership with RED in Sparks, Nev.

Mohegan chief operating officer Jeff Hartman said the tribal ownership group "feels very strongly about the success of the project in Kansas. We think it's going to be a vibrant project."

The Mohegan tribe operates Mohegan Sun casinos in Uncasville, Conn., and at Pocono Downs, in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The tribe's casino resort and convention complex in Connecticut includes one of the largest casinos in the world, with more than 6,200 slot machines.

Kansas City's largest casino floor, at Ameristar, has around 3,000 slots. The Legends Sun partners propose around 2,000 slots in Kansas.

Murder charge laid in boy's death on Manitoba reservation

CBC News

CANADA — The body of Tristan Charlton Dunsford, 9, was found on the Little Grand Rapids First Nation on June 27.

A 16-year-old boy has been charged with second-degree murder in the death of a boy whose body was found Friday night on a remote Manitoba reserve.

Nine-year-old Tristan Charlton Dunsford was found dead on the Little Grand Rapids First Nation, about 300 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg.

The boy bled to death after receiving "sharp-force trauma" to the neck, RCMP said Monday afternoon.

Dunsford's father, 39-year-old Terry Bushie, says he's still trying to piece together what happened to his son.

Standing on a road across from a small cluster of houses

guarded by police tape, he said he learned of his son's death Friday when police knocked on his door.

"I was sleeping and they told me I lost somebody," he said. "I'm still in shock. I'm going to find out what happened."

Tristan often played with friends in the area, Bushie said, and he would also often stay at his grandmother's house in the area to help care for her.

Bushie said he was angry at first, but that quickly turned to sadness as he reflected on the loss of his son, described as a smart boy who liked to play baseball and fish.

"He used to tell me, 'Dad, let's go fishing.' That's the way he was, he was a fisherman," Bushie said.

"I was proud of him. But he's gone now. I miss my son," he added, his voice breaking with emotion.

Inmate admits stabbing

Sunbury Daily Item

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — A Native American has admitted he participated in the stabbing of another inmate in the Allenwood Federal Penitentiary in 2005.

Calvin J. Nez, 35, formerly of Arizona, pleaded guilty Monday in U.S. Middle District Court to a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

It is the same charge to which two other Native Americans pleaded earlier in the incident that resulted in Jason Maloney suffering from multiple stab wounds that required treatment at the Geisinger Medical Center.

The stabbing occurred in Maloney's cell about 6:45 am. on Sept. 28, 2005. The three inmates who were charged were observed leaving the cell and three homemade shanks were found in containers nearby, officials said.

Already sentenced were Clifton N. Hamalowa to 63 additional months in prison and Dustin A. Denney to 77 months.

Had any of the three chosen to go to trial, it is doubtful Maloney, also a Native American, would have testified.