

Naselle Youth Camp potlatch focuses on better pathways

By DAMIAN MULINIX
For EO Media Group

NASELLE, Wash. — One after another, the residents of the Naselle Youth Camp stepped forward to Loran Bacon, a member of the Native Brotherhood group at the camp, and received their smudge. With an abalone shell filled with smoldering sage, Bacon waved his feather through the smoke, coaxing it forward onto their bodies, in a Native American ritual meant to purify the receiver.

"We're giving good spirits," said Bacon, who was an active participant in last week's annual potlatch at NYC. "It makes me feel real good. I think about my family, and I pray about them every day. I like to smudge. It gets me in the spirit."

To give away

Bacon, and the brotherhood, were the hosts of the event, a traditional gift-giving feast which is practiced by Native American tribes throughout the Pacific Northwest. The word comes from the Chinook jargon meaning, "to give away." Perhaps what was given most freely was goodwill toward those in attendance and their ancestors.

"It's pretty holistic," said Michael Nolan, a native Cree, who is a drug and alcohol counselor at the youth camp and is the facilitator of the Native Brotherhood. "I kinda have the role of their elder. I think they maybe look at me as younger than I am. I'm in my 30s, and I can still remember those days."

The event welcomed representatives from the Chinook and Shoalwater tribes, the Pacific County Sheriff's Department, even local musician Krist Novoselic, featured poetry readings, drum songs and food.

"Once we walked the earth and our bodies were strong. Once we started each day with deep breaths and grateful thanks for all around us ... Our sacred breath — it's time to take it back," read one of the brotherhood prior to a lively drum circle song.

A spirit quest

Nolan said that the native youth are hungry for that familial spirit that binds them together and allows him to make a strong connection with the young men.

"They have that respect and it's almost more than if I were just a counselor," he said. "It's



Photos by Damian Mulnix/For EO Media Group

ABOVE: Loran Bacon of the Native Brotherhood at Naselle Youth Camp brushes smudge onto another resident of the facility prior to Friday's potlatch. The ceremony included applying smoke from a smoldering bundle of sage. **BELOW:** Michael Nolan, a counselor at Naselle Youth Camp and facilitator of the Native Brotherhood that hosted the potlatch, performs a drum song with the group Friday.

built into their culture.

"A lot of these guys, even though they come from the reservation and they've participated in powwow. A lot of them come from a culture of poverty that's so rampant in that system, where their father or mother are in jail and so they've lost a lot of their ceremonies. They're learning and relearning. It's a way to own it for themselves. So when they leave here, they feel like they can walk in a better way."

Honoring Gardner

Also honored at the ceremony was the life of late Chinook Chairman Ray Gardner, who died late last year. Gardner had been a regular contributor to the group in previous years and the group planted an evergreen tree in his honor as part of the ceremony.

Nolan explained that the boys at the Youth Camp are now there for a limited amount of time, usually three to four months, before being transferred to a different facility or group home. Unfortunately, the current group in the Native Brotherhood did not have the opportunity to meet Gardner, but Nolan said his legacy and spirit are still present today.

"It's like everything in our culture, with the oral tradition, he's alive in our stories shared in sweat lodge," he said. "They all know his name, he is definitely alive in that sense."



Dementia, early stage Alzheimer's patients eligible for program

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — A four-week program for those diagnosed with early stage Alzheimer's disease or other dementia-causing conditions, "Staying Connected," is 1:30 to 3 p.m. Fridays through March 24 at North-West Senior and Disability Services, 2002 S.E. Chokeberry Ave.

Staying active and keeping the mind engaged can benefit both mood and memory. Participants will learn: strategies to help carry out enjoyable pastimes; how to cope, and live, with having early memory loss; how to celebrate accomplishments and how to communicate memory loss to others.

This program has been developed to engage individuals in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease or related disorders and their

care partners. Early stage refers to people, irrespective of age, who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders and are in the beginning stages of the disease. In this stage, they retain the ability to participate in daily activities and a dialogue. This also includes those with "younger onset" who develop dementia before 65, and are still in the early stages of the disease.

Researchers at the University of Washington have developed this program, which is being offered by Oregon's Aging and Disability Resource Connection and the Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter, and is funded in part by a grant from the Administration for Community Living.

"Staying Connected" is free, but screening and registration are required. For information, call 800-272-3900.

Nominate Astoria school staff, faculty

The Daily Astorian

Nominations are open for A Tradition of Excellence, the new program by the Astoria School District and Astoria School Foundation to honor staff and faculty.

The categories for nomination include a classified staff member of the year to honor a member of the district's support staff, such as food service workers, bus drivers, secretaries and instructional assistants. Another category is for a certified staff member of the year for a teacher in the district. A third category honors a collaboration among teachers to positively

impact student learning.

Nomination forms are available on paper at each school in the district and online at <http://tinyurl.com/jebcc98>. Nominations are due by April 4.

A nomination committee made up of staff, faculty, administrators and a school board member will review the applications and make selections for the awards. Staff members will be recognized at the A Tradition of Excellence Awards 7 p.m. May 4 in the Astoria High School auditorium. Also honored will be employees who have reached 10, 20 and 30 years of employment in the district.



A potted evergreen tree was on display during Friday's potlatch, which would later be planted in honor of former Chinook tribal chairman Ray Gardner who died in 2015.

WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA

Contact: Steve Axtell • 360-430-0885 or John Anderson • 360-269-2500

Live broadcast
from the
Astoria Event Center
February 26, 27 & 28
starting at 6pm



KMUN 91.9FM
KTCCB 89.5 Tillamook

Listen on the
web at
CoastRadio.org

You don't have to move to get that new-home feeling.



Consider a U.S. Bank Home Equity Line of Credit for your next project. With competitive rates and flexible payment options, lasting home improvements could be within reach. Introductory rates start as low as 1.99% APR.

Call 800.209.BANK (2265), visit a local branch, or go to usbank.com/dreambig.

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

Introductory rate for 5 months
Rates as low as

1.99%
APR*

Rate available 2/20/16 - 4/29/16.
Rates are subject to change.

Variable rate after
introductory period

4.24%
APR*

Actual rate may be lower.
Visit your local branch or usbank.com.

the POWER of POSSIBLE. **usbank**

*1.99% Introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is available on Home Equity Lines of Credit with an 80% loan-to-value (LTV) or less. The Introductory Interest Rate will be fixed at 1.99% during the five-month Introductory Period. A higher introductory rate will apply for an LTV above 80%. Offer is available for new applications submitted from February 20 - April 29, 2016. After the five-month introductory period, the APR is variable and is based upon an index plus a margin. The APR will vary with Prime Rate (the index) as published in the Wall Street Journal. As of February 9, 2016, the variable rate for Home Equity Lines of Credit ranged from 3.24% APR to 8.50% APR. Higher rates may apply due to an increase in the Prime Rate, for a credit limit below \$125,000, an LTV above 80%, and/or a low credit score. A U.S. Bank Consumer Checking Package account is required to receive the lowest rate, but is not required for loan approval. The rate will not vary above 18% APR, or applicable state law, or below 1.99% APR. Choosing an interest-only repayment may cause your monthly payment to increase, possibly substantially, once your credit line transitions into the repayment period. Repayment options may vary based on credit qualifications. Interest only repayment may be unavailable. Loans are subject to credit approval and program guidelines. Not all loan programs are available in all states for all loan amounts. Interest rates and program terms are subject to change without notice. Property insurance is required. U.S. Bank and its representatives do not provide tax or legal advice. Your tax and financial situation is unique. You should consult your tax and/or legal advisor for advice and information concerning your particular situation. Other restrictions may apply. Mortgage and Home Equity products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Deposit Products are offered through U.S. Bank National Association. Customer pays no closing costs, except escrow-related funding costs. An annual fee of up to \$90 may apply after the first year and is waived with a U.S. Bank personal Platinum Checking Package. The Consumer Pricing Information brochure lists terms and conditions that apply to U.S. Bank Consumer Checking Package accounts and can be obtained by calling 800.872.2657. Member FDIC ©2016 U.S. Bank. All rights reserved. 160083 2/16