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Health care careers starting On Track

Their college experiences so far have been very different. Yet Lynden Harry and Kaliyah Iverson share this same wisdom: When an opportunity presents itself, you take it.

"In that way you can open many doors," Lynden says.

Kaliyah adds: "Even if you don't want to go into the medical field, go and see as much as you can. That's been our approach."

Lynden and Kaliyah this fall are each starting their second years at college—Kaliyah at Arizona State University, Lynden at the College of the Siskiyou.

And both young women are pursuing careers in health care—Lynden in Physical Therapy, and Kaliyah in Pediatric Oncology.

They both credit the same program—starting in high school and continuing this summer—with helping them refine their career choices. The program is OnTrack.

OnTrack, of Oregon Health Sciences University, is co-sponsored by the Northwest Native American Center of Excellence, the Jefferson County school district, St. Charles Medical Center, and Indian Health Services.

While at Madras High School, Lynden and Kaliyah—they were both outstanding athletes, especially at basketball—joined OnTrack. They were referred by school counselor Butch David.

At first OnTrack was almost like a school club: There were day



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Kaliyah Iverson and Lynden Harry credit On Track with helping inspire their careers in health care fields.

field trips to OHSU and the Doernbecher Children's Hospital, for instance; and regular meetings at school with Katie Lenahan, OnTrack director.

They met Dr. Dove Spector and Dr. Erik Brodt, of the Northwest Native American Center of Excellence, and other professionals with the program.

In their senior high school years, Kaliyah and Lynden were especially impressed by the OnTrack trips to OHSU and Doernbecher. At

OHSU they got to know doctors, nurses and other staff, learned about different medical specialties, and visited the learning center.

The Doernbecher visit was equally enlightening, and moving... It was all an eye opening experience. "I had never seen a medical facility like OHSU," Lynden says.

"I remember OHSU being so big, compared to Madras St. Charles," Kaliyah says.

And the experience gave them a better idea of what they wanted

to do in life.

In the winter and early spring of their senior high school years, with fellow senior Enrique Ramirez, Lynden and Kaliyah became the first OnTrack Tribal Health Scholars.

They spent mornings at the Warm Springs clinic, learning more about various health careers, getting to know the clinic staff. And for their final weeks as Tribal Health Scholars, they each chose a particular area of focus.

Meanwhile, they were applying for college, and applying and qualifying for financial assistance. Kaliyah chose Arizona State, in part because they offered the most assistance; Lynden chose the College of the Siskiyou, where she continues with basketball as point guard for the Eagles.

The College of the Siskiyou is in a beautiful locale, at the base of Mt. Shasta. "It's a great place to be," Lynden says. "The campus is very diverse." Enrollment is about 2,700. There are aspects—the diversity of culture, the rural setting—that can almost remind you Warm Springs, Lynden says.

Arizona State, with more than 70,000 students, is one of the biggest schools in the U.S.: In choosing colleges, "My story is a little different from Lynden's," Kaliyah says.

See ONTRACK on page 8

Kah-Nee-Ta discussion

Tribal Council and Management this week discussed the latest developments at Kah-Nee-Ta. There remain investors who are interested in partnering with the tribes in the operation of the resort.

Some potential partners have already toured Kah-Nee-Ta, some more than once; while others are planning future visits, said Michele Stacona, Secretary-Treasurer.

Management shared with Tribal Council conceptual information from potential investors. The information is strictly confidential as discussions continue.

Council members said they would be interested in touring the resort, with the public possibly invited to attend.

Council was also planning to talk on Monday with board members of Indian Head Casino about any potential cooperation between the casino and Kah-Nee-Ta.

Chief operations officer Alyssa Macy gave an update on the hamlets, some of which are occupied. There will need to be contamination clean-up in some units, Ms. Macy said. All units will be tested, she said.

In order to bring the hamlets up to current standards, a significant investment would be needed, up to \$5 million.

Water update

Tribal Utilities and Gelco Construction were working on the replacement of the pressure reducing valves for the Agency water system.

The old valves were not functioning properly, causing leaks in the water lines.

The work so far has been a great improvement for the water delivery system; more work will continue as parts become available.

Some of the areas where the valve work happened: the industrial park, the Catholic Church, West Hills, and Greeley Heights stations.

This work included the replacement or repair of the pressure reducing valves and other critical components. Water is being distributed through the system with improved reliability as compared to the pre-construction condition.

A next step in the process will be Public Utilities staff conducting BacT testing, and finalizing steps to have the boil water notice lifted.

Until that time, the notice remains in effect. Listen to KWSO up for updates, or check to tribal websites.

Areas impacted are the entirety of the Warm Springs Agency area including Kah-nee-ta, Wolfe Point, Sunnyside, Upper Dry Creek, Miller Heights, Campus area, West Hills, Tenino Valley, Tenino Apartments, Elliott Heights, Senior Housing, Trailer Courts, and Greeley Heights.

Team Rylan shows best of community

Rylan Davis is going into the eighth grade at the Warm Springs Academy. As friends and family know, Rylan is a wonderful athlete and bright spirit—a true winner when it comes to game time.

Earlier this year, during Academy basketball season, Rylan began feeling pain in one of her shoulders. Her parents, Leslie and Jabbar Davis, took her to the hospital for an MRI, thinking maybe Rylan had a rotator cuff injury.

The MRI showed no injury, and Rylan was referred to specialists at Oregon Health Sciences University. Then her other shoulder started hurting. Doctors said it could be leukemia; and more testing showed this to be the case.

Rylan went through treatment at OHSU, staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Her parents—Leslie works at Warm Springs Construction and Jabbar at Fire Management—would stay with her.

Rylan responded well to the treatment, Leslie said.



Courtesy Team Rylan

She will have to go to OHSU less frequently as time goes by, as she continues improving.

Successful treatment could be a three-year process. Meanwhile, Rylan will be going to school, keeping as much of her regular routine as possible.

The community has taken this cause to heart, helping the family during these past several months. Rylan's teammates and school friends have shown incredible support. Sandra Danzuka, who works with Leslie at Ventures, started by organizing a raffle; Tony Holliday put together the upcoming fundraiser basketball tournament, September 7-8, during leukemia awareness month.

Tribal Management and Council approved a rare exception, allowing employees to donate their personal time off to the Davises, so they could spend time in Portland with Rylan, during her stay there. These are just some of the examples.

"It's been overwhelming, I'm speechless and humbled," Leslie says. "We really have no words to say how much we appreciate all of this."

Rylan Davis plays for the Warm Springs Academy Eagles.

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