

SHO-BAN NEWS

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Thursday, January 26, 2023

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Volume 47, Issue 4

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LOCAL

Shokota Pow-Wow Supply ribbon cutting celebration



EDUCATION

LCPD hosts Buckskin Gloves class



SPORTS

Hawthorne Middle School 7th grade boys basketball action



7-year-old boy dies after dog attack on Fort Hall Reservation

By **LORI ANN EDMO**

Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — A seven-year-old boy died from his injuries after four dogs attacked him January 21 at a residence on Sandy Road in Gibson.

The boy's mother Emily Islas was severely injured after she tried to fight off the dogs but was unable to so she laid on top of her son to protect him according to the Fort Hall Police. Both were taken to Portneuf Medical Center. Both are non-tribal members.

An online fundraiser has been started for Em-

ily and her deceased son. The GoFundMe page said she suffered nerve damage, a ruptured artery in her right arm, damage to the back of her head, left arm and her back. To contribute go to <https://gofund.me/e995d64c>

The FHPD received the report at 5:31 p.m. when they responded to the Wolfchild residence for a report of a juvenile being attacked by dogs on the property. The reporting party who called in the attack said she didn't know the extent of injuries other than the child was not conscious.

The dogs were Rottweiler breeds and two mixed breed dogs that were still on the property. The dogs belonged to Benjamin Wolfchild and Juliana Wolfchild who reside there but weren't home.

The victims Islas and her son lived in an RV behind the Wolfchild home on the property. The child went outside the RV and when he did not return after a few minutes, his mother went looking for him. She found him lying face down with the dogs mauling him in the front porch area of the Wolf-

child home.

All four dogs were shot and killed by Fort Hall Police and Fort Hall Game Warden.

The dog owners were issued citations for 15 violations of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Animal Ordinance including vicious animal attack, rabies vaccination, and over the limit of canine or feline pets.

Fort Hall Criminal Investigators, FBI, FHPD and Tribal Fish and Game are conducting an ongoing investigation. The case is being submitted to the U.S. Attorney

to review for potential federal charges.

The Fort Hall Business Council offers their sincere condolences to the family of the young man who lost his life in the tragic incident according to a Tribal Public Affairs statement. They also want to thank the responding emergency agencies and first responders for their quick response.

The FHBC reminds residents individual dog owners must comply with the Tribes Animal Control Ordinance and copies are available to the public from the Administration office located at the Tribal Business Center in Fort Hall.

In a FHBC letter published in this edition, the

council writes they intend to adopt a resolution to once again implement a directive to Tribal Police and Fish and Game to issue citations to animal owners whose animals are straying at large on the reservation that includes destroying any dogs that are a threat to reservation residents.

The FHBC has been working to fund an additional Fish and Game position to enforce livestock/brand inspection and domestic dogs under the Tribes' Animal Control Ordinance. The letter reads they are finalizing the budget and will advertise the position as soon as they approve it.

Indigenous representation strong at Sundance

By **ROSELYNN YAZZIE**

Sho-Ban News

PARK CITY, Utah — Indigenous representation at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival came back strong after returning to in-person since going online because of the pandemic in 2020 with 11 films featured and the debut of IllumiNative's Inaugural Indigenous House.

Indigenous House was launched at the Sundance Film Festival on January 21 and 22.

Prior to its opening a reception in collaboration with the Latinx House was on Friday, January 20 with musical acts Raye Zaragoza and Emcee One.

Crystal Echo Hawk, founder and executive director of IllumiNative stood on stage with Monica Ramirez, president and co-founder of Latinx House as she recalled her first time at Sundance and seeing the opening of Latinx House and how she hoped one day to do the same.

"They're like our big sister organization," said Echo Hawk. "So it is a very big deal for us, this first year as Indigenous House. Building these houses is about building community."

The Indigenous House is located on Main Street and meant to, "celebrate and honor the creativity, strength, and beauty of Native peoples, unveil new research on Native voices in media, and provide a gathering space for community members and allies to examine, address, and explore issues that impact Native peoples," according to a press release.



Ute singers at IllumiNative's Inaugural Indigenous House on January 21. (Roselynn Yazzie photos)



NDN Collective staff, from left Sarah Sunshine Manning, Steph Viera and Willi White.

ing to a press release. Indigenous House will be a gathering place for filmmakers, storytellers, and audiences seeking new voices and fresh perspectives.

On Saturday, Echo Hawk welcomed attendees to the grand opening and explained the space was long overdue and the house was built for all relatives and non-Native relatives to learn about the people, stories and all

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Crystal Echo Hawk, founder/executive director of IllumiNative with Monica Ramirez, president and co-founder of Latinx House at a reception on Friday, January 20.



"Fancy Dance" co-stars Lily Gladstone and Isabel Deroy-Olson on a panel.

SB Tribes oppose Wyo. House Bill 83

By **YVETTE TOWERSAP**

Office of Public Affairs

CHEYENNE, Wyo.

—On January 24, Fort Hall Business Council member Claudia Washakie offered testimony to the Wyoming House Appropriations Committee on House bill 83, which would authorize the Wyoming Governor to enter into agreements with tribes on off-reservation hunting rights.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes has long protected the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 off reservation treaty rights and do not agree with the proposed bill to enter into state agreements on treaty hunting. The Tribes oppose the bill and asked the Appropriations Committee to conduct additional fact-finding before they pass it out of committee.

After hearing from Eastern Shoshone Tribal Vice-Chairman Mike Ute and Kit Wendtland, the Governor's special legal counsel and tribal policy advisor, the Committee voted to send it to the full House.

Appropriation Committee Chairman Bob Nicholas asked for a summary of the current status of the Herrera case. Wendtland explained how the Herrera case led up to the Eastern Shoshone Business Council had approached Governor Gordon to discuss options to work collaboratively, and avoid off reservation treaty hunting litigation. As a result of those discussions, House bill 83 emerged.

Wyoming House bill 83 proposes to authorize Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon to enter into negotiations and agreements with tribes who have off-reservation treaty rights, including hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities.

The bill has restrictions for the Governor: all agreements must be consistent with state statutes; the tribe must have a game code that provides permits or licenses for hunting, fishing, and trapping,

and incorporates Wyoming general regulatory provisions for bird and animals; the tribe must have the ability to enforce their game code; the tribe agrees that tribal members who do not possess a valid license shall be subject to state laws for off reservation activities; the tribe agrees that tribal members who possess a valid tribal license, but otherwise violate the tribal game code outside the boundaries of the Wind River reservation are subject to enforcement by either tribal or state authorities.

It also requires the tribe to agree to provide tribal seasons that align state seasons for hunting, fishing, and trapping seasons; agree to state closures, collect and share harvest data with the State Commission; set quotas, limits and possession limits similar to the States; when necessary for conservation, the tribes shall abide by state regulations.

The Fort Hall Business Council reached out to their counterparts, the Eastern Shoshone Business Council to discuss the bill, in an effort to better understand why they reached out directly to the Wyoming Governor.

Those intertribal discussions are continuing. Previous leader-to-leader discussions in 2019 with both the Eastern Shoshone and the Crow Tribe after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on *Herrera v. Wyoming*, to recognize the contemporary importance of hunting, fishing, and gathering and actively advocate for natural resource protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancement to ensure and preserve resources necessary to fulfill inherent, contemporary, and traditional Treaty rights in Wyoming.

The Wyoming Governors Office intends to work only with Wyoming tribes first, then maybe, reach out to tribes outside of the State, at the discretion of the Governor, as per the requirements of House bill 83.



Sundance Film Festival marquee at the Egyptian Theater.

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SUNDANCE, continued

the good medicine they're bringing into the world.

"There's going to be so many good conversations and things that happen in this space and there was so much prayer and good medicine and love and different things that went into the design of this. So we really hope that you all will make this your home over the next two days at Sundance," she said.

She talked about IllumiNative's mission, which is a Native woman-led social and racial justice organization dedicated to building power.

Echo Hawk said, "So much of our work is about fighting, you know, our invisibility and the erasure of Native peoples and reminding people that we're not only still here, but we are doing big things, and so many important things in our communities and across Indian Country. And our Indigenous creatives and our story tellers that are putting out films and TV shows are such a part of reeducating Americans about who we are and how powerful we are and how resilient and strong we are. And that is the medicine and energy that we wanted to bring into this space about our resiliency, our strength and the power of our stories to change the future, for our people and for the world."

A blessing was offered by Bart Powauke and singers from the Ute Tribe.

Powauke spoke about his elders and how they told him when Indian people come together they become strong.

He was told stories are told during the winter time.

"These stories are something good you guys are sharing, getting it out there," he said.

Throughout the week-end Indigenous House hosted a mix of events, dinners, and conversations with Native creatives, industry leaders, and allies including Sterlin Harjo, Randall Park, Lily Gladstone, Tazbah Chavez, Razelle Benally, Eugenio Derbez, and many more.

Sarah Sunshine Manning, citizen of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley is a Communications Director for NDN Collective and attended the event with her staff to show support for their partner organization, IllumiNative.

She took in the panels and programming and saw the premiere of "Fancy Dance," a drama following Jax, played by Lily Gladstone, after her sister's disappearance as she tries to care for her niece, Roki, played by Isabel Deroy-Olson, despite adversity. She searches for her sister as she helps Roki prepare for an upcoming powwow. Due to Jax's troubled past, Roki is sent to live with Jax's absent father and his wife, so she kidnaps her as they set out to find her mom.

"It was amazing to not only see the film, but also get to hear from the producers and some of the actors and just hear some of their reasoning behind why they do, why they tell stories the way that they do. Why they chose to focus on certain story elements differently when talking about issues like MMIW in a way that really seeks to focus on resilience and solutions and not just the typical, I guess, trauma porn that you're used to seeing a lot of times when films are produced by white folks about Native people," she said.

Manning said it was really cool to see so many Na-

tive storytellers and Native production teams talk about how much the landscape of Indigenous media, storytelling, and entertainment has really changed.

She felt good being at Sundance and would love to see more storytelling from Native people, from their homelands, about their unique history. She said, maybe someday be part of a production herself.

Willi White, Oglala Lakota from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, is a 2016 alumni of the Sundance Institute Indigenous Program. He is now the Head of Content & Production at NDN Collective.

He came to support his friends Razelle Benally, one of the directors of "Murder in Big Horn" and Erica Tremblay.

He attended the premiere of "Murder in Big Horn," a three part documentary that talks about the MMIW epidemic that's ongoing in Montana.

"It means a lot, you know, just to show up because we need to show up always. I think that's the biggest thing when we create media and content is being able to show up for each other and let people know that our stories matter in these spaces and that we do show up for them," said White.

He said, "To me this community is like home for me, just being a part of the Institute and the programming you build a lot of deep relationships with people here. All the way from the OG's like Sterlin Harjo and all of them on up. Just to be a part of that richness of like incredible storytellers and creators really making an impact in this industry is huge."

White said Indigenous House is a great place to be a part of the conversations and to be informed of where things are moving narratively, where people are looking in terms of storytelling and where are we in the state of storytelling from both the content being created, but also all the way up into the people who are making those decisions and what are the conversations at that level and how do we continue to build power in those spaces.

White said those considering applying to Sundance Institute's Indigenous Program should find a story that means something to them and comes from the heart. He encourages people to apply because the experience can be life changing and it gives one the opportunity to build their community.

Indigenous House wrapped up on Sunday after conducting panels on Representing Joy and Building Power. A Fireside Chat was sponsored by the Decolonizing Wealth Project featuring founder Edgar Villanueva and actress, producer, director and Co-founder of Color Farm Media Erika Alexander.

Later that evening, the U.S. Documentary "Bad Press," premiered directed by Rebecca Landsberry-Baker and Joe Peeler. The film shows Mvskoke Media staff as they are censored by the Muscogee Nation government officials after reporting on them in unfavorable light. They fight for transparency and access to information in order to hold their government officials accountable.

Sundance Film Festival is from January 19-29. Films can be viewed in person and online. Go to <https://festival.sundance.org> for more information.

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