

Students reflect on inspiring time at NIEA

As Dasan Begay packed his bags to fly for the first time in his life, he was excited about what he was about to experience.

He was about to attend the National Indian Education Association—NIEA—Conference in Oklahoma City.

Dasan is a junior attending Madras High School in Jefferson County School District. He was one of three students the district sponsored to attend the conference this school year.

Dasan joined fellow junior Kahmussa Green and senior Allison Medina on the trip.

All three grew up in Warm Springs, and have attended school in the 509-J district since they were in kindergarten.

The three students were accompanied by Mariah Stacona, Madras High Native American Liaison, and Tony Summers, high school principal.

The NIEA Conference—the theme this year was *Education Sovereignty—Our Choice*—brought together middle, high school and college students: They came to learn from inspirational, accomplished and indigenous speakers. Some speakers for the student sessions included:

Chance Rush, Mike and Bone Pawnwee, Hud Oberly, Raven Morgan, Dr. Daryl Tonemah, and the Lady Force Football team from Oklahoma City.

“The speakers, they all made a life for themselves,” Allison Medina said.

“It’s showing that Native Americans aren’t just the stereotype that everyone thinks they are.”

Allison’s career aspirations include going into law enforcement. She wants to be a police officer and then work her way up to becoming a detective.

Her inspiration for her interest in law enforcement is because of family. She had several family members who were cops and has a family member currently in the FBI. She thought about her career goals when listening to the speaker’s message.

“They spoke a lot about sticking to it, and doing the things I want to do like college and having a good career,” Allison said.

“I need to remember to



Students Kahmussa Green, Dasan Begay and Allison Medina joined school liaison Mariah Stacona and Principal Summers for the NIEA Conference in Oklahoma City.

stick to my guns and keep doing what I’m doing.”

Kahmussa Green picked up a similar message from the speakers. She wanted to attend the conference because of the experience it would provide her. In addition, she was hoping to get great advice on how to become successful and start a business.

“It was honestly really something else,” Kahmussa said. “To hear everybody else’s stories and what they’ve been through and how they got this solution to start this or that and that it is okay to leave the reservation and become successful.”

Inspirational talks

Each of the students came away from the conference inspired: Inspired to be better every day by listening to the speakers share their stories with them.

Something that stuck with the students was that the message was coming from people who said they were in similar situations when they were younger.

Another encouraging sign for the three students was seeing students from all over the country descend on Oklahoma City for the conference.

“It was good to know there are people in the same boat as us you know, even way down south or way up north,” Dasan Begay said.

“They still have the same problems as us and they’re trying to do the same things or better.”

Everybody has a dream was another key takeaway for Dasan. He learned that while everyone has that dream, not everyone achieves it. His message now is to not stop until he accomplishes his dream. For Dasan, his dream is to earn an education degree and become a teacher and eventually a principal.

“You should keep trying to achieve your dream even if somebody thinks it’s not good for you or whatever. You should just follow it and achieve it,” he said.

Seeing the city

All three students recommend future students take advantage of this opportunity, should it come up again.

“I think they should go just to have the experience,” Kahmussa said.

“There’s a lot you can learn. I’m really happy I got chosen to go because it’s helped me and this really inspired me a lot.”

Both Mariah Stacona, as Native American liaison, and Principal Summers ensured the students made the most of their conference experience. It was the first time for each of the students to attend an event like this.

“I would say it was fun watching them get outside of their comfort zone. They had to meet other students and

‘ You should keep trying to achieve your dream, even if somebody thinks it’s not good... ’

go up to the keynote speakers to introduce themselves,” Mariah said. “It was just fun watching them grow within themselves.”

In addition to the conference, the three students also got a chance to check out the city with Mariah and Principal Summers. These experiences outside of the classroom gave the group time to develop and grow their relationships with one another.

“The best part of it was actually talking with the kids, to be honest,” Mr. Summers said.

“At one point, we went to dinner and we had some pretty in-depth conversations about stuff like culture, how they feel they’re being taught in classes, how they perceive things, and how they take certain things they’re taught.”

Some of the highlights of the trip were checking out the University of Oklahoma and the First Americans Museum.

“They have a lot of preserved things like dresses, belts, moccasins, and weapons, and they speak a lot about our history and their history,” Allison Medina said.

“It correlates with those as well down here in Warm Springs. I think that’s really cool they got to make a huge museum dedicated to Native American people.”

After reflecting on his time in Oklahoma City, Dasan wants to use this experience to benefit not only himself but serve as an inspiration for those around him.

“My hope is to just come back and be a good example for my fellow peers,” he said.

“Help them maybe realize and maybe try to do more stuff in the community. For other students, teachers, parents, and families. If you have a dream, go achieve it.”

Story and photo, School District 509-J Communications

Public notice: Livestock on Kah-Nee-Ta property

On January 24, 2021, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs/Tribal Council made the decision to reinvest and re-open the Kah-Nee-Ta Village/Resort. An aggressive, major renovation has commenced, and the resort is scheduled for re-open in 2023.

Kah-Nee-Ta temporarily closed in September 2018. In the following months, livestock owners allowed their cows and horses to graze on the tribally owned property. Through the construction/remodel, livestock caused damage to the pool area and landscaping.

Ordinance 33, Chapter 345 (Livestock Control in Populated Areas),

Sections 345.10.4 and 345.20 specifically address the Kah-Nee-Ta Resort property. Per Tribal Ordinance 33, the Kah-Nee-Ta Resort is closed to livestock, the livestock owners are respectfully requested to remove their animals immediately. This notice is to inform the membership that any unauthorized ‘at large’ livestock on resort property is in violation of Tribal Ordinance 33; fines, restitution, court and other costs are addressed in the ordinance.

Thank you for your cooperation. The re-opening of the Kah-Nee-Ta Resort is an exciting time for the tribes and the membership.

Public meeting notice: Commissary Project

The Warm Springs Community Action Team (WSCAT) is applying to the USDA Rural Development, Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program for funding of the Commissary Small Business Incubator project.

WSCAT is seeking \$450,000 in funding.

WSCAT will hold a meeting open to the public to discuss project progress, discuss the application, discuss how community-based entrepreneurs can access office and retail space at the Commissary, and provide an opportunity for

the public to comment.

The meeting is a requirement of the USDA application. The meeting will be held on the Tuesday afternoon of November 29 at 12 p.m. at the WSCAT building at 1136 Paiute Avenue.

For more information on the USDA Rural Development application please contact Chris Watson at:

Or Starla Green (starla@wscat.org) at either email:

starla@wscat.org
Or call WSCAT at 541-553-3148.

Tribal Council in November

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| Monday, November 21 | 9 a.m.: Secretary-Treasurer update. | 9 a.m.: Culture and Heritage. |
| | 10: November agenda and review minutes with the S-T. | 9:30: Education. |
| | 11: Draft resolutions. | 10: On Reservation Fish and Wildlife. |
| | 1:30 p.m.: Legislative update calls, federal and state. | 10:30: Off Reservation Fish and Wildlife. |
| | 2:30: Enrollments with Lucille Sampson of Vital Stats. | 11: Health and Welfare. |
| | 3: Indian Health Services update with Hyllis Dauphinais. | 11:30: Land Use Planning. |
| | | 1:30 p.m.: Range and Agriculture. |
| | | 2: Timber. |
| | | 2:30: Election and Counting Board. |
| Tuesday, November 22 | Tribal Council meeting with committees. | Wednesday, November 23 |
| | | 9 a.m.: Approve 2023 tribal budget and resolution. |

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46th Annual Warm Springs Indian Holiday Bowling Tournament

Nov 24th - 26th 2022
Bend Lava Lanes
1555 NE Forbes Rd Bend OR

USBC Certified
Grammz Special
Thursday 7:30pm
3-6-9 auto, 9 pin no tap
Regular, Scotch doubles

Prize Fee Returned 100%
Mixed Team
Thursday 3:00pm & Friday 3:00pm
Youth
Saturday 10:00am

Doubles & Singles Friday 9:00am & 12:00pm (noon)	Puppy Dog (150 & Below) Friday 6:00pm	Masters Friday 6:00pm	Holiday Roll-off Saturday 2:00pm	Mixed Doubles Saturday: 12:00pm & 4:00pm
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Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday 5:30pm

Entry Fee Breakdown
Prize fee: \$10.00
Linage: \$14.75
Expenses: \$0.25
Total: \$25.00

Contact info We're on facebook (Warm Springs Indian Holiday Bowling Tournament)
Austin Greene: (p) 541-553-3243, austin.greene@wstribes.org
Margie Tuckta: (m) 541-419-2558, margietuckta@gmail.com
Birney Greene-Boise: (p) 541-553-5667, birney1953@gmail.com
Jolene Greene: (m) 541-410-2638

Host Hotel: Way Point 1415 NE 3rd St. (541)382-7011: Standard Double Queen \$99.00 (excludes 11.9% taxes)