



Seminole Tribe to appeal ruling

Defying a judge, the tribe continued to take online wagers.

BY MARY ELLEN KLAS
Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — The Seminole Tribe of Florida continued to collect online wagers for its sports betting app on Tuesday in defiance of a federal court ruling as it urged the judge who invalidated its 30-year gambling compact with the state of Florida to put a temporary halt to her decision as the tribe pursues an appeal.

"The tribe's online sports betting authorized by the compact is now in operation, and is generating millions in revenue per week," said Marcellus W. Osceola, chairman of the tribe, in a statement filed with the court late Tuesday. "The tribe is using these funds to pay back the development costs for its online sports book, make revenue-sharing payments to the state and fund important tribal programs."

A day after Judge Dabney L. Friedrich of the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia ruled that the tribe's sports betting and casino expansion deal violated federal Indian gaming law, the tribe filed a notice of appeal and a "motion for stay pending appeal," asking Friedrich to tell them within the next 24 hours if she is going to put a hold on her own ruling.

Once Friedrich rules on the motion, the tribe can move forward and appeal the ruling.

In the 22-page motion for a stay, the tribe's lawyers, Joseph H. Webster and Barry Richard, argue that the ruling will cause "irreparable harm" to the Seminole Tribe's sovereignty and economic interests "if a stay is not issued pending resolution of the serious legal issues posed on the tribe's appeal."

Although its online sports betting operation has been active for less than a month, the lawyers said that the tribe would "lose substantial revenue" from online sports betting — and that those revenues are "used in part to fund important programs for the tribe."

See **GAMBLING, 9A**



Photos by IVY CEBALLO | Times
Nancy Becker of New Port Richey embraces Michael Meltzer while Scarlet Meltzer looks on at Tampa International Airport on Wednesday. Becker fostered the siblings, who are her cousin's grandchildren, when they were younger.

A day of reunions for a normal-ish holiday

In a return to pre-pandemic travel levels, the airport expected 70,000 passengers to come through Wednesday.



Vanessa Montilla, right, becomes emotional while embracing sister-in-law Marilyn Perez at the airport Wednesday.

BY JACK EVANS
Times Staff Writer

The time was 9:58 a.m., the weather was clear and sunny and 64 degrees, when the flight from Hartford, Conn., touched down at Tampa International Airport. A half-hour later, the first jubilant round of hugs complete, Anne Collord looked out over the terminal, already bemused by the change in scenery.

"It was 26 degrees when we got in the car this morning," she said with a laugh.

Her husband, Barry, flattened a

hand and raised it dramatically until it came level with the top of his granddaughter's head. Anne and Barry hadn't seen Faye, 12, in two years, since the last Thanksgiving that anyone considered reasonably normal.

"Isn't she tall?" Faye's dad, Brian Collord, asked. He had Faye stand next to Anne, who was now a bit teary-eyed. "Grandma's still got you by a couple of inches."

A few minutes earlier, as she and Brian waited for the travelers of Jet-Blue Flight 533 to emerge next to the

See **ARRIVALS, 7A**

FLORIDA FIRM WINS FOSTER CONTRACT

Beginning in the new year, Family Support Services of North Florida will take over the \$80 million, five-year contract. Eckerd Connects was terminated earlier this month. **Local & State, 3A**

JOBLESS CLAIMS HIT 52-YEAR LOW

First-time applicants dropped to 199,000, another sign that the U.S. job market is rebounding rapidly from last year's coronavirus recession. **Business, 6A**

LIGHTNING, KRACKEN MEET FOR FIRST TIME

The team's preparation process will remain the same for the first game against Seattle's expansion team Friday at Amalie Arena. **Sports, 1C**

Pleasant day
8 a.m. Noon 4 p.m. 8 p.m.
☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️
62° 75° 75° 68°
0% chance of rain
More, Page 7C
Vol. 138 No. 124
© Times Publishing Co.



William "Roddie" Bryan Greg McMichael Travis McMichael

All 3 men convicted of murdering Arbery

"He didn't do nothing but run and dream," Marcus Arbery Sr. said after the verdict.

BY RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — Three men were convicted of murder Wednesday in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, the Black man who was running empty-handed through a Georgia subdivision

when the white strangers chased him, trapped him on a quiet street and blasted him with a shotgun.

The February 2020 slaying drew limited attention at first. When video of the shooting leaked online, Arbery's death quickly became another example in the

nation's reckoning of racial injustice in the way Black people are treated in their everyday lives.

Now the men all face a mandatory sentence of life in prison. The judge will decide whether their sentences are served with or without the possibility of parole.

As the first of 23 guilty verdicts were read, Arbery's father had to leave the courtroom after leaping up and shouting. At the reading of

the last criminal count, Arbery's mother dropped her head and quietly pumped her fists.

"He didn't do nothing but run and dream," Marcus Arbery Sr. said of his son. Outside the courthouse, dozens of Black supporters hugged and cried.

The jury deliberated for about 10 hours before convicting Greg McMichael, son Travis McMichael

See **ARBERY, 10A**

An eagle's tale: Eugene has a story

Four years ago, she was no viral shark-stealing raptor.

BY CHRISTOPHER SPATA
Times Staff Writer

Years before Eugene stole the shark, appeared on TV and got famous, she earned her first fan via a fall that nearly killed her.

This was fledgling season 2017, when young bald eagles were leaving the nest for their first test flights. But Eugene didn't fly, she dropped. Something like 100 feet from the cell tower overlooking the Shell station off a sprawly section of

Bradenton's State Road 684.

After that, Eugene's path went across the state in vans and through flight barns and veterinary surgical suites, and then by air, with stops in Orange and Polk counties, a relapse, jail, then back home to Florida's Gulf Coast and who knows where else.

Last week it was the Dunedin Causeway. A fisherman was reeling in a small shark when Eugene flew in and snatched it as tourists from Utah took video. The eagle devoured the live shark right there on shore as a crowd watched.

The video made the local news, See **EAGLE, 11A**



Amandarnhot on TikTok
In a video that went viral, Eugene the bald eagle nibbles on a shark she snatched from a fisherman at the Dunedin Causeway on Nov. 18.